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## PM: Our answer to terror – build and settle

**PFLP: We carried out attack**  
**ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies**



### Beit El shooting victims laid to rest

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, standing in the Beit El cemetery over the fresh graves of Ena and Ephraim Tzur, pledged yesterday that the government will increase its efforts and resources to ensure the existence of the Jewish people in its historic land.

"Beit El is important to us," Netanyahu said. "The roots of the people of Israel are in the land of Beit El, Shilo, Be'er and Hebron. And not only will these roots not be torn out, they will be made deeper."

Thousands of people swarmed to the small cemetery just outside Beit El to the funeral of Ena and Ephraim, who died in a drive-by terror shooting Wednesday night. The three-hour funeral procession began in the plaza of Beit El Yeshiva, which Yoel Tzur, the husband and father of the victims, was instrumental in building. After the recitation of several psalms and a number of eulogies, the huge crowd walked about 30 minutes to the cemetery.

Tzur was released from the hospital yesterday, as were two of his children who had been passengers in the car. Two other children remained hospitalized last night in good condition.

Despite the number of people in attendance, the only sounds heard as the procession started to make its way from the yeshiva to the cemetery were footsteps, chirping birds and sobs.

Among those who attended the funeral along with Netanyahu, were Foreign Minister David Levy, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and former chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu.

Both Hammer and Sharon called for the development of settlements as a response to the attack. "I have no words of comfort for you, Yoel," Sharon said. "I have no words of consolation. How can one console the death of a mother and son? There is no solace. Comfort is not what is needed now, but a true Zionist act, that is what the nation expects."

Netanyahu said the first answer of the government and the people of Israel to the attack is to make it clear that "we are staying here. We will build here, we will live here. You will never succeed in uprooting us from our land. You will not achieve your goals."

Netanyahu pledged to increase efforts to ensure security for all Israelis. He said the government sees no difference between its responsibility to provide security for settlers and for those living in Beit Kama or Herzliya.

"We will continue to try and achieve peace, a true peace," Netanyahu said. "And this peace will be obtained only if it obligates the other side. That means the other side is committed to uphold all its obligations."

Netanyahu said the government will in a clear, unequivocal manner demand the extradition of murderers.

There are no plans for the cabinet today to announce the expansion of existing settlements, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said.

Channel One reported last night that security officials told Netanyahu yesterday that to engage in such expansion would only exacerbate the situation in the territories.

Officials in the premier's office note that the cabinet is likely to approve a scheduled motion to accept the report prepared by Netanyahu's director-general Avigdor Lieberman a few weeks ago. The report called for reinstating special benefits for settlers on a par with those living in development towns, Galilee, the Golan and the Jordan Valley. Those subsidies were nullified by the Labor government shortly after it came into office in 1992.

Netanyahu convened the inner cabinet yesterday to discuss the attack, but no operational decisions were taken, officials say.

Tzur called on the government to immediately begin building 1,000 units on Har Artis in Beit El as a response to the attack.

(Continued on Page 18)

IDF troops continue to enforce a closure on the Ramallah area and have largely left to Palestinian police the hunt for the terrorists responsible for Wednesday's attack.

Security sources said the killers are believed to have taken shelter in the autonomous enclave.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which opposes the peace process, took responsibility for the drive-by shooting near Beit El. Speaking from Damascus, the PFLP's Abu Ahmed Fuad said his group launched the attack because of Israel's settlement policies.

The PFLP "will continue our struggle as long as the occupation and settlements continue," he said, on the 29th anniversary of the group's founding.

In another development, Samir Abu Shaqfa, a Palestinian worker, was shot to death at Moshav Kochav Michael before dawn yesterday, a police spokeswoman said. Uri Maor, 56, a resident of the moshav, in the South, was remanded for causing his death. Maor initially told police he believed Shaqfa was a burglar, but later contended he suspected the Palestinian was a terrorist about to carry out an attack. (Story, Page 3)

Israeli Police, meanwhile, said forensic tests indicate the two rifles used in the attack were also used in five similar drive-by shootings, according to Israel Radio. The findings led police to believe that the terrorists were from the Halhoul cell, responsible for two deadly attacks last summer. Military sources said they lost the trail of the Hebron-based cell, responsible for the murder of at least seven Israelis, and speculated it may have moved, operations to the Ramallah area.

Israeli security officials provided their Palestinian counterparts with names of suspected PFLP militants in the Ramallah and Bethlehem areas, who were promptly arrested.

In Ramallah, Palestinian police have arrested 17 suspects, all PFLP members, and Channel 2 said it is believed at least one of them matches the description given to police by Yoel Tzur, whose wife and son were killed in the attack.

Security coordination was headed by Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and General Security Service head Ami Ayalon, alongside Palestinian Authority Gen. Haj Ismail.

On the personal authorization of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, Dayan was permitted to visit the Ramallah city dump, where specialists examined the vehicle from which the terrorists shot the Tzur family.

However, IDF troops did not hunt down the terrorists in the city, as implied by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu immediately after the attack.

A curfew has been imposed on the village of Sidra, where the

(Continued on Page 18)

Yoel Tzur comforts one of his sons, as they walk past the bodies of his wife, Etta, and son, Ephraim, in Beit El yesterday.

### 'My head's fine but my heart aches'

**BATSHEVA TZUR**

"MY head doesn't hurt, but my heart does," Tamar Tzur said yesterday from her hospital bed, while a funeral procession left Jerusalem for Beit El with the bodies of her mother, Etta, and her brother, Ephraim.

A wife of a 13-year-old with braces on her teeth, Tamar was swathed in a large bandage, after doctors at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem removed ricochets from her head and neck. But it was her two younger sisters, Shoshana, 8, lying in the next bed after a six-hour operation on her right hand, and six-year-old Avital, at home, who worried her.

"They don't know yet that mother is dead. They are too young to absorb that at this stage, so we haven't told them. It will be so hard for them to come home from school every day and not to find her there," she said, dry-eyed. "Avital is only in first grade."

Tamar said her father had given her hope. "My dad is so full of faith and he told me to be strong and to believe in God. Dad said we must look on the bright side of things. We didn't suffer so much," she said. "Those who died, didn't feel anything and we were only lightly wounded and don't have much [physical] pain."

She said only five of the family's eight children had been in the car. The four girls were all described as lightly injured and two were released from the hospital yesterday.

The moments of horror of the evening before remain clear in her mind. She spoke quietly, as if out of respect for the dead, and with detachment.

"Our car had stopped at the intersection for the vehicles traveling in the opposite direction to pass. Suddenly there were shots. I knew immediately what

it was.

"The car seemed to be filled with blood in a moment. I was sitting next to Ephraim. In the beginning, he was still breathing heavily, then he was dead. Dad said that he died instantly and that those were simply death throes, so I guess he didn't suffer.

"Dad – he was unhurt, just a few ricochets in his back – jumped out to run to call for help. It was so scary. Mom was still conscious and she muttered a few times, 'Quick, get help.' After a while, a car with some members of our settlement arrived and started helping us. They took us to an army clinic nearby. Even in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, mom was alive and spoke with the doctor.

"But my big sister, Shlomit – she's 16, but she was totally hysterical. She started shouting: 'Look at Ephraim, he's dead.' His eyes had rolled back. She made a mistake. She should have realized that would frighten the little girls."

Tamar admitted that she had worried in the past that something could happen to them. "It happened to other families, so why not to us? Yes," she said, "we will stay on in Beit El. Jews have to be everywhere in Eretz Yisrael."

She is not angry, nor is she looking for retribution, she said.

"The Arabs have a right to use the road like we do. We have Arab friends. One was here today and he was terribly upset... There's no point in killing or even looking for [the perpetrators]. They cannot bring back my mom."

She looked at the time. Then, comforting herself, added with a rare sigh: "I believe that my mom will now go to heaven."

### Yesha council threatens to boost settlements if gov't won't

IF the government does not decide at its cabinet meeting this morning to expand settlements, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza will begin doing so itself, council chairman Pinchas Wallerstein said yesterday.

"We will provide a Zionist response," Wallerstein said. "A Zionist response is the expansion of the settlements. A Zionist response is new settlements. A Zionist response is that the Arabs will understand that if they kill us, we will grow and expand in the same place."

Wallerstein's comments came as the council held an emergency meeting in Psagot in reaction to Wednesday night's terror attack near the Beit El settlement.

"If the government does not decide by Friday to expand the settlements in Judea and Samaria, the council will do it alone, even during the shiva period," Wallerstein said. "Every time Jewish blood is spilled, 1,000 new Jewish families will come here."

A similar appeal came from Yoel Tzur, whose wife and son were killed in the attack. Speaking at the graveside in Beit El, Tzur called on the government to immediately begin constructing some 1,000 housing units in Har Artis, just outside Beit El.

Among the ideas suggested by the council is the placement of mobile homes in the settlements and attempts to gain a foothold on hills surrounding the settlements, as was done unsuccessfully at numerous locations in the summer of last year.

### Generali: We won't pay Holocaust victim's family

**DAVID HARRIS**

THE Israeli legal representative of one of Europe's largest insurers, Assicurazioni Generali, said yesterday the company has no intention of paying a life insurance policy to the family of a Holocaust victim.

Before World War II, Jews from the city of Uzhgorod, now from Ukraine and then in occupied Czechoslovakia, took out life insurance policies with Italian-based Generali's Prague office.

In 1944, most of Uzhgorod's 20,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz, including Mor Stern, who had taken out a policy for Kr 30,000 in 1929.

Stern's son Rudolph made a claim on the policy to Generali via the Czech embassy in London, in the fall of 1945.

However, as was the practice, Stern was told he would have to provide a death certificate.

In October 1945, the company's Czech assets and liabilities were nationalized under a presidential decree, and according to a letter sent this week to the Stern family from Generali vice director Guido Pastori, "became a separate independent business."

About 50 percent of company's overall assets were expropriated throughout Eastern Europe, in the years following the war, Generali's legal representative in Israel Amihud Ben-Porat said yesterday.

(Continued on Page 18)

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Eilat	4:21 p.m.	5:21 p.m.

### 'Post' on Internet with new technology

**JUDY SIEGEL**

THE Jerusalem Post is the first newspaper in the world to be presented on the Internet via BackWeb, an Israeli-developed, pioneering technology allowing Web sites that interest each user to float onto the computer screen as graphic symbols and be clicked on immediately.

By dispensing free download software to home users, Ramat Gan-based BackWeb Technologies turns the information provider into a "polite" broadcaster of information that the user can accept if he wishes. Instead of having to find his way through hundreds of thousands of Web sites competing for the user's time, he can have what attracts him pulled out onto his screen.

Since yesterday, anyone reaching the Post's Internet Edition (http://www.jpost.co.il) has the option of clicking on the BackWeb

option. This allows him to register as a user at no cost, download 1.5 megabytes of software and select a customized menu of BackWeb channels.

Whenever he is connected to the Net, icons representing these channels will appear from time to time on his screen and offer their wares. They disappear in a few seconds if not clicked.

This is called a "polite agent delivery technology," very different from the aggressive approach of a company like PointCast, which forces the Internet user to stop what he is doing to receive news and bombard his screen with this information, whether he wants it or not.

BackWeb, a start-up company that made its first splash at this week's Internet World exhibition in New York, offers dozens of channels, from financial and technology news to ski reports, astrology forecasts, children's games and weather updates. The Wall Street Journal will be the second newspaper to appear via BackWeb early in January.

The Jerusalem Post's Internet edition offers the main news headlines of the day (which flow out of the icon even without clicking it), news stories, a selection of opinion articles, editorials and business and sports reports. In addition, subscribers can select which sections of the newspaper they want to receive automatically. The Post has plans to increase and personalize its channel offerings.

"It was only natural that we would seek out new, innovative technologies to best serve our readership and forge new markets."

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# Weizman: We must live together

# Right of hot pursuit not used

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman yesterday denounced the "cruelty" of the perpetrators of Wednesday's terrorist attack, but said Israel and the Palestinians had no alternative but to try to live together.

"This may sound Utopian, impossible, but it is the impossible that the State of Israel has usually managed to achieve," Weizman said.

He was speaking during a visit to Tamar and Shoshana Tzur, aged 13 and 8, who are hospitalized in the children's wing of Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Karem. Tamar is suffering from ricochet wounds in her neck and Shoshana has ricochet wounds in her left hand and legs.

"Despite what happened, we will continue to find the way to live together with our neighbors, with all the difficulty, and the cruelty on the other side," Weizman said.

But he warned: "They have to understand that if this continues, there will be conclusions that are not easy. I am speaking for myself and not the government."

"I am convinced that some of them understand the situation. It is a small body that perpetrated this. We have to push forward and try to achieve coexistence."



President Ezer Weizman reflects on the hanukkiot lit yesterday at the Beit El home of Yoel Tzur, whose wife and son were killed in Wednesday's drive-by shooting.

BACKGROUND  
STEVE RODAN

ISRAEL has the legal right to pursue terrorists inside areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority, but the IDF has never exercised this right as to avoid a clash with Palestinian forces, security and legal sources said yesterday.

So far, the security sources said, the IDF has not had a case in which it tracked terrorists fleeing from Israeli to PA-controlled areas.

"Israel has the right to hot pursuit," said Dan Polisar, executive director of Peace Watch. "Legally, there is no doubt of that right. So, the considerations that stop Israel must be either military or political."

The Israeli-Palestinian accord signed in 1994 did not specify Israel's right of hot pursuit. However, Israeli negotiators added this to the Oslo II accords signed in 1995.

That accord defines hot pursuit as "engagement," which is defined as "an immediate response to an act or an incident constituting a danger to life or property that is aimed at preventing or terminating such an act or incident, or at apprehending its perpetrators."

The accord allows Israel to carry out this engagement in PA areas,

but says Israel must transfer responsibility to the PA police as soon as possible.

In Wednesday night's attack, the IDF was unable to immediately trace the attackers. The terrorist squad had fled and was believed to have entered the Ramallah area before Israeli soldiers arrived at the scene of the shooting.

IDF commanders said that despite the legal right of hot pursuit they have sought PA approval for entry into areas under Palestinian control. They point to the Palestinian-Israeli clashes in September when an IDF force sent to rescue soldiers under siege in Joseph's Tomb in Nablus was met by a hail of gunfire from Palestinian police and other gunmen.

The result, IDF sources said, is that unless Israeli authorities capture terrorists in the act they escape to PA-controlled areas of asylum. PA officials have so far rejected every Israeli request for extradition of suspected terrorists, and yesterday they said their policy will apply to the latest attack.

Instead, the PA has arrested and prosecuted suspected terrorists in secret trials. In several cases, IDF sources said, the convicted men were quietly freed after serving as few as several months in prison.

## PA routinely flouts extradition requests for terrorists

BACKGROUND  
EVELYN GORDON

THE extradition of terrorists is a section of the Oslo Accords the Palestinian Authority consistently has refused to honor. According to the Government Press Office, Israel has so far requested the transfer of 27 suspected terrorists - 17 formally and 10 informally. To date, not a single request has been honored.

According to the GPO, six of the 27 are definitely serving in the PA security forces, three others appear to be members of these forces, and another three are now trying to join.

However, the PA has complied with some requests for the transfer of ordinary criminals.

According to both the 1994 Cairo Agreement and the 1995 Interim Agreement, either side must comply with a formal request for the transfer of a suspect. An informal request is not binding, but Israel considers compliance with such requests to be part of the general framework of security cooperation.

The one exception to the mandatory compliance with a formal request is if the suspect is

other 17 were filed by the Labor government, mostly in 1995. Six requests were submitted in 1994. Only two requests have been formally refused. The rest have simply been ignored.

The first formal refusal, in December 1994, was Israel's request to extradite Rajah and Amru Abu-Sita, wanted for the murder of Uri Megidish of Moshav Gan-Or in Gaza in March 1993. The PA said that because the murder occurred before the Oslo Accords were signed, it was not covered by the agreement.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's legal advisor Ahaz Ben-Ari, and the Foreign Ministry's legal department all said there was no basis for this interpretation in the agreement, which makes no reference to any time limitation. However, Rabin chose to publicly treat this interpretation as legitimate.

The second refusal was in the case of Iyad Bashti and Yusuf Malhi, wanted for the murder of Gil Revah and Shlomo Kapah in Ramle in August 1994. In this case, the PA said the request did not meet the technical specifications of the agreement. Ben-Yair denied this, but resubmitted the request anyway. The new request was never answered.

## Unextradited suspects

THE following is a list of suspects Israel has requested to extradite from PA areas. The PA has not responded to any of these requests, except for two that were rejected. Ten of the suspects are already in the Palestinian Police or in the process of joining Israel said.

- Atef a-Wahab Hamadan - wanted for kidnapping and wounding an Israeli soldier.
- Bassam Subhi Shaaban Issa - took part in the murder of three Israeli soldiers in 1993.
- Said Massoud Salah Arabid - involved in attack that killed Lt. Col. Meir Mintz in Gaza in 1993.
- Waleed Fawzi Abu Daka - involved in an accident in which an Israeli guard was shot dead in Petah Tikva.
- Nafez Mahmoud Sabih - coordinated suicide bombing in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.
- Imad Mahmoud Issa Abbas - participated in murder of two Israelis near Karmi in 1992.
- Adnan Yihye Mahmoud Jaber al-Gohi - concealed a car used in a suicide bombing at Kfar Darom; involved in shooting attack in 1987.
- Muhammed Arafat Ibrahim Khawaja - involved in attack that killed two soldiers dead at Erez junction.
- Hisham Ashour a-Malic Salam - coordinated transportation for Dizengoff Center suicide bomber.

- Bassam Khalil Abdel Rahman Aram - involved in 1993 murder of Zvi Fikler at Moshav Gan-Or.
- Yasser Muhammad Musa Aram - also involved in Fikler killing.
- Aia Ahmed Abd al-Munim Salah - involved in 1993 murder of Yossi Zindani in Beni-Ayish.
- Rajah Khalil Ali Abu-Sita - involved in 1993 murder of Uri Megidish of Gan Or.
- Amru Abdallah Abu-Sita - also involved in Megidish slaying.
- Salah Mustafa Othman - hijacked Jerusalem bus in 1993, killed one Israeli and wounded others.
- Raid Abu Libda - murdered Natalia Ivanov in Ashdod in 1994.
- Iyad Hamdi Abu-Shakafa - for attempted murder of Shaul David in Ramle in 1994.
- Iyad Bashti - involved in 1994 murder of Gil Revah and Shlomo Kapah in Ramle.
- Yusuf Malhi - involved in 1994 Ramle killings.
- Yusuf Muhammad Admed Ragbi - involved in killing of two hikers, Ohad Bachrach and Uri Shohor, in Wadi Kelt last year.
- Shahr Ali Ahmed Ragbi - involved in Wadi Kelt killings.
- Khader Saba Yakub Abu Abra - gave orders for Wadi Kelt murders.
- Muhi a-Din a-Sharif - transported explosives for 1995 suicide bombing on Jerusalem bus.
- Abd al-Majid Dudin - trained suicide bombers, including 1995 Jerusalem attack that killed four.
- Awad Silmi - involved in Lt. Col. Mintz killing and suicide-bomb attacks.
- Nidal Ahmed Mustafa Barakat - for killing suspected collaborator, Labib Latif Shadedef.
- Ibrahim Lateef Shaheed - involved in Shadedef's murder in 1994.

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In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, the 10 of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and the 9 of clubs.

In the weekly Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 215828 won NIS 1 million, while ticket 560310 was good for a new car.

Tickets numbered 025290, 420404, 349913, 350124, 095364, 193865, 434828 and 239996 all were good for NIS 5,000, while those holding tickets ending in 95215, 36636, 50826, 26657, 74590, 13880, 29407, 27791, 97381, 07867, 58226, 48624, 34499, 75799, 83958, 16018, 44469, 64325 and 00552 all won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 839, 662, 262 and 512 were worth NIS 100, in 95, 68, 71 and 87 NIS 30, in 07 and 98 NIS 20.

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Masked Palestinian students march around Bethlehem University yesterday as they celebrate the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

## PFLP: Rejectionist group with a past

THE Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, based in Damascus, has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attack that killed Eita and Ephraim Tzur near Beit El. It is a group that:

- rejected Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's peace accord with Israel and supports armed struggle to achieve a secular state in all of the land now occupied by Israel and the Palestinian Authority.
- maintains a West Bank military arm, the Red Eagles, which has carried out drive-by shootings and other attacks in Israel and the

West Bank that claimed the lives of five people in June and July. It carried out infamous attacks in the 1960s and 1970s, including hijackings of three airliners that were brought to Jordan in September 1970 and blown up after the passengers were released. The incident triggered a civil war in which Palestinians were expelled from Jordan. Wednesday's attack occurred on the anniversary of the group's 1977 founding by George Habash, a physician by training who was a refugee from the 1948 war and founder of a

pan-Arab nationalist movement. Habash's health has been poor in recent years and he reportedly has sought treatment in Jordan. The PFLP spawned several other Marxist-oriented splinter factions. These included Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by Nayef Hawazneh, and the General Command faction headed by Ahmed Jibril, both based in Damascus. The PFLP was the second-largest Palestinian group, after Arafat's Fatah faction, until the rise of Islamic opposition groups such as Hamas.

## Israeli farmer kills Palestinian worker

SAMIR Abu Shaqfa, a Palestinian worker, was shot to death before dawn yesterday, a police spokesman said. Uri Maor, 56, of Moshav Kochav Michael, was remanded for five days by the Kiryat Gat Magistrates Court for causing his death. Maor initially told police he believed Shaqfa was a burglar, but later contended he suspected the Palestinian was a terrorist about to carry out an attack. "He said he heard strange voices coming from outside. He said he thought somebody was trying to break in. So he took his gun and went outside and fired at them. They tried to flee, but one of them fell," a police spokeswoman said. Members of Shaqfa's family at Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp believed the 40-year-old man was killed to avenge the fatal shooting of Beit El resident Eita Tzur and her 12-year-old son Ephraim near Beit El by Arab terrorists the

day before. "This was in revenge for the Ramallah attack," his cousin Nabil Abu Shaqfa said. Police sources said Maor probably will be charged with causing death through negligence for shooting before thoroughly checking the situation. Palestinians immediately set up a wake for Shaqfa and proclaimed him a "martyr killed by settler herds." They said Shaqfa had been working at the same job for more than 15 years and everyone in the area knew him. They also said that three other Palestinian workers were wounded in the shooting. Police said they could not confirm that others were wounded. Brig.-Gen. Ziyad Atrash, a senior Palestinian Police officer in Gaza, said that his information discounted the possibility that the man was killed on suspicion of burglary. "I don't want to preempt events,

but the information I have does not match the claim that the workers were on a robbery," Atrash said. Atrash, head of the Palestinian side of the joint liaison committee with the IDF in Gaza, said he had asked Israel to set up a joint team to investigate the case. Shaqfa was one of several Palestinians laborers the suspect's neighbor had just picked up from the Erez junction. The neighbor had dropped the three off near the Maor's home and they were walking towards the fields. As they passed Maor's home, his dogs began to chase them and the barking woke him. "I heard voices in Arabic. I thought they were terrorists about to carry out an attack. I shouted at them to stop and they ran so I shot," Maor told police. He then called police and Magen David Adom. An MDA crew came to the scene and declared Shaqfa dead.

## Peres: PA must catch Beit El gunmen

LABOR leader Shimon Peres said yesterday the Palestinian Authority must make every effort to trace and apprehend the murderers in the Beit El terrorist attack. Peres told Labor's executive meeting the attack "is not only the government's problem, it's the problem of all of us, of the whole nation and the state. Nobody wants to see the renewal of terrorism or the intifada. We must demand that the Palestinian

Authority denounces the attack unequivocally and does everything it can to find and catch the terrorists, and either to try them or to turn them over to us." Peres noted that even when Israel was in control of the territories, it did not always succeed in catching all the terrorists. Still, he said, "we will judge the PA on the basis of its efforts."

He warned against giving in to those who want to crush the peace process by means of terrorism, and he reminded the public of the alternatives to the peace process, which are much worse, he said. Peres said that a month before the elections the PA was quite effective in reining in Hamas and foiling terrorist attempts, adding that "when Israel was still in Gaza things were much worse, and many people were killed."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Court rejects Federman's appeal

The High Court of Justice rejected former Kach spokesman Noam Federman's petition against his administrative detention yesterday. The court had initially issued a show-cause order on the case, indicating that it found merit in the petition, but yesterday decided the evidence against Federman was enough to justify the detention. Federman charges that most of the evidence consists of press clippings of interviews he has given.

#### Muasher: Don't take peace treaty for granted

Jordanian information minister Marwan Muasher expressed concern yesterday over the chilling of ties with Israel and the ongoing stalemate in the peace process. Muasher made his comments while meeting with Labor MK Ehud Barak. Muasher said Jordan feared that settlements would be expanded, and this could impact the peace process. Barak, however, expressed confidence in the special relationship between the two countries and the belief that ties would grow. Muasher invited Barak to visit Jordan. In a meeting with Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, Muasher said: "It is forbidden to take the peace treaty with Jordan for granted."

#### Gold thanks Egypt for help in negotiations

The government is grateful for Egypt's help in the Hebron negotiations, Dore Gold, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political adviser, said yesterday during a visit to Cairo. We appreciate the help Egypt has given to bring about an agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians regarding Hebron," he said after meeting with Nabil Fahmy, Foreign Minister Anwar Moussa's political adviser. It is unclear if Gold also met with Moussa. "The talks began and will continue with [the help of] the Egyptians," Gold said.

## Grapes of Wrath monitors blame IDF for wounding Lebanese civilians

THE Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee yesterday held the IDF responsible for the wounding of six Lebanese civilians by tank fire, but refrained from condemning Israel for the incident.

The committee began its discussions into Lebanon's complaint Sunday. Verification visits were also made to the scene of the roadside bomb attack in the zone and of the tank fire in Tibnit village.

The committee expressed its hope that all sides would take the necessary measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

A diplomatically worded statement was issued by the five-nation committee yesterday, after four days of discussions over Lebanon's complaint about shelling in the south of the country last Saturday. The fighting erupted after Hizbullah gunmen detonated a series of roadside bombs alongside an IDF patrol in the Beaufort Castle region of the security zone, killing one soldier and wounding another. The IDF maintained that Hizbullah also fired Sagger anti-tank missiles at the patrol and that the tank fire that followed was in self-defense. Lebanon, however, charged there was no Sagger missile firing at the time and that the tank shell that hit Tibnit village, north of the zone, lightly wounding the six civilians, was unjustified.

The Lebanese delegation to the monitoring committee said the tank fire was a clear violation of the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath in April. The understandings prohibit attacks on civilians, but not those carried out against military targets, provided the attacks themselves are not launched from residential areas or near to public facilities. The monitoring committee, composed of representatives from the US, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon, was established to supervise the understandings and investigate alleged violations.

The committee did not accept Lebanon's claim that IDF artillery shelled Tibnit village. The statement said the committee found that during IDF shooting - in response to the roadside bomb attack and anti-tank fire at the army patrol - a single tank round hit Tibnit village, as a result of which six Lebanese civilians were lightly wounded.

The committee expressed its hope that all sides would take the necessary measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The findings are unlikely to appease Hizbullah, which has criticized the monitoring committee in the past as toothless and ineffectual and for failing to protect Lebanese civilians.

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Last but not least...

## THE 06 DIALING AREA HAS GONE OVER TO 7 DIGITS

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## Get serious

FOLLOWING the terrible suicide bombings in February and March, former prime minister Shimon Peres said the peace process "hangs in the balance." It depended, he noted, on whether or not Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat cracked down on Hamas. In March, Arafat did in fact take action, arresting hundreds of Hamas activists and stamping out agitation to violence in the mosques.

Since then, it seems, Arafat has been resting on his laurels. As early as the Cairo Agreement of May 1994, Arafat committed to confiscate illegal weapons and disarm rogue militias. In August 1994, Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo said, "We have set a timetable for the disarming citizens with illegal weapons in the autonomous areas ... the only armed Palestinians will be police."

There have been isolated cases of weapon confiscations and discoveries of arms caches for the cameras, but no concerted effort has been made to disarm and disband armed Palestinian militias. One of these militias, George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has taken credit for Tuesday's drive-by murder of Eita and Ephraim Tzur on a road near Beit El.

In the case of the PFLP, Arafat cannot claim, as he does with Hamas, that he is limited from taking drastic action because a substantial minority of Palestinians support the group. The PFLP is a tiny Marxist splinter group based in Damascus, with practically no support in the area under PA control. There is no possible excuse for allowing it to continue in operation.

In September, Arafat inflamed and endorsed violent riots following the opening of a new exit in the Western Wall Tunnel. Since then, he has been riding a wave of Palestinian and international support, which has further weakened the Hamas. Yet Arafat has not taken advantage of his new strength and popularity to deal a decisive blow to armed rejectionist militias such as Islamic Jihad, the PFLP, DFLP, Hamas's military wing, and the renegade elements of the Fatah Hawks.

Arafat and many Palestinians seem to believe that Israel will only make concessions under the threat of violence. Threats of violence, in this view, are not only consistent with the peace process, but its driving force. Such threats are currently being made to persuade the government to reverse a provisional decision to build a Jewish neighborhood in the Ras al-Amud section of Jerusalem.

Israel's response, rightly, is to say that violent

threats are a violation of the Oslo Accords and a negation of the accords' whole concept. Moreover, Israel tells the Palestinians that they will gain more by staying within the peace process and building the trust of the people of Israel, than by backing Israelis in a corner.

It is clear, however, that Arafat only acts on his own commitment to crack down on Palestinian terrorism when it is too late - after a massive terrorist attack. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) admitted as much to the *New Yorker*, stating "until March [after the suicide bombings] we weren't serious."

During the election campaign, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would not let the Palestinians get away with terrorism against Israel. He would fight terrorism differently, he said, and would not subordinate the fight against terror to the peace process.

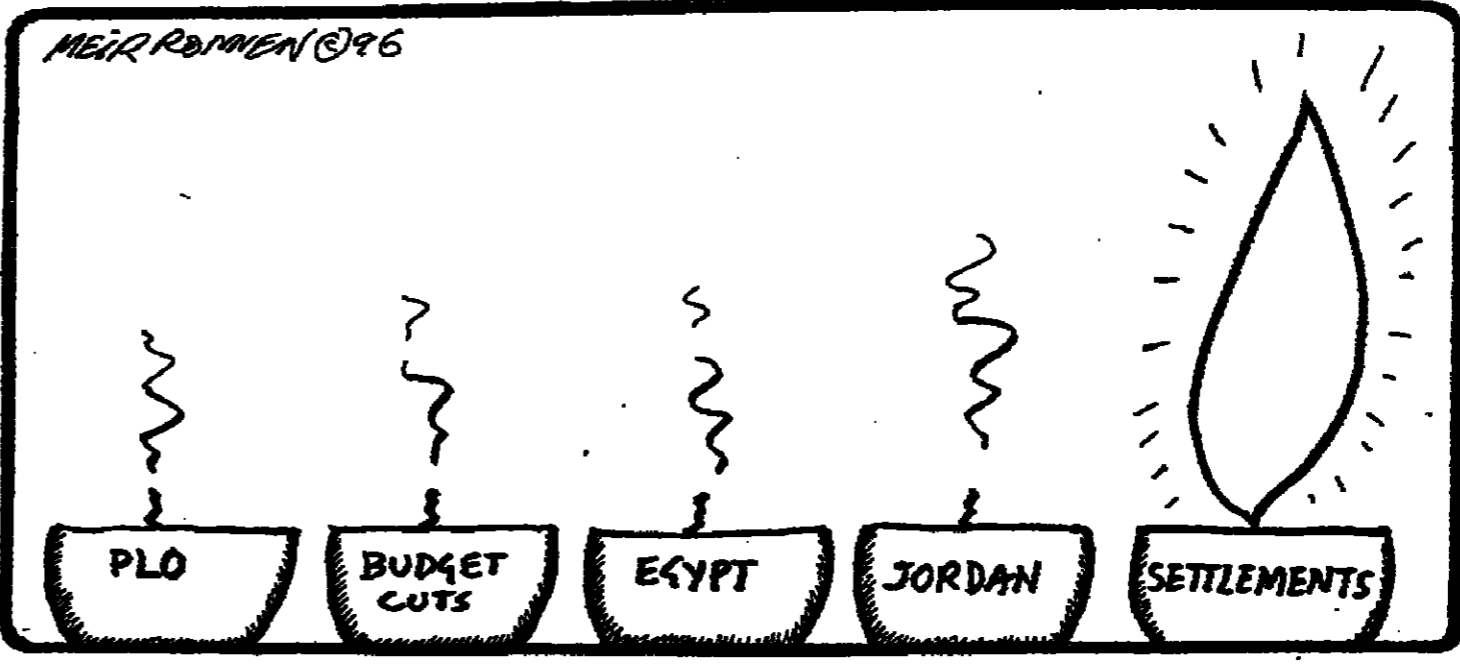
In practice, the distinction between the new and previous government's approach is not an obvious one. In the wake of this latest attack, Finance Minister Dan Meridor said: "We will not be able to continue the peace talks if they are accompanied by such incidents." But he did not actually call for halting negotiations.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, has demanded that the perpetrators of this attack, who escaped into Ramallah, be apprehended and "extradited" to Israel to face trial here - a call which if past experience is anything to go by, will remain totally unheeded by the PA.

The Palestinians can claim that under Oslo, the PA does not have to transfer Palestinians who have been legitimately tried in their judicial system. But many of those wanted by Israel have not been tried at all, or have received cursory sentences and released.

Of 27 requests Israel has made to transfer suspects to Israel for trial, the PA has rejected two and ignored the rest. And to make matters worse, 10 of these suspects are either serving in the Palestinian police or are in the process of joining its ranks.

A mother and her child have been gunned down and Arafat has not even had the decency to condemn such barbaric behavior. The prime minister has no choice but to make abundantly clear to the PA that just as Peres was eventually prepared to resort to the stick in place of the carrot, so too is Israel's new government. Now is the time for Arafat to use his political strength to "get serious" again against groups that, even according to Palestinians, threaten Palestinian interests.



## World views a child's death

AFTER 11-year-old Hilmi Shousha met his untimely death in October, amid circumstances which are yet to be fully ascertained in a court of law, the world media's conscience and the tender hearts of peace-lovers worldwide were pricked.

The boy's photo was highlighted for days on all the news channels, local and foreign, that cable TV pipes into our homes. Hilmi haunted us. It was impossible to turn on the TV without encountering his image, or his parents being sympathetically interviewed at length, or his neighbors screaming revenge, or his mass funeral.

Then there were the condolence visits to the Shousha family by the American ambassador and by contrary Israelis, mostly those who will grasp at any opportunity to beat the breasts of their political opponents.

Security guard Nahum Korman, accused of the killing - not premeditated murder but perhaps manslaughter - was arrested and roundly vilified by a press unanimous in its opinion.

For a while it seemed that the vicious Jews had baked another matza with the blood of an innocent child. So what if he wasn't a Christian, and it wasn't Passah? There was still the sense that this was yet another in the long list of dark Jewish crimes that the world,

and some of our own, love to ascribe to Jews. Perhaps no ill-will is involved. Perhaps it is unnatural for Jews to kill Arabs but natural for Arabs to kill Jews, and perhaps also the Jews bring it upon themselves, if they don't actually deserve it.

PERHAPS this is why the photo of 12-year-old Ephraim Tzur did

not feature so largely in broad-casts of Wednesday's murders by CNN, BBC, Sky and ITN.

Some of their newscasts even forgot to mention his age. In fact they only briefly referred to a "drive-by shooting of two Israeli settlers" which, alas, served as a pretext to impose a closure on Ramallah.

Film clips showed only impersonal metallic images: the attacked and attacking cars in the darkness of night. Those who gave the item more than a few fleeting seconds

included a comment from a stern Prime Minister Netanyahu. The BBC outdid itself with commensurate on the burning question of whether Israel would seize on the incident to slow down the peace process even further.

Funny how Israel always gets to be the villain of the piece, even when a little boy and his mother are gunned down in cold blood.

The story was never personal-

ized. No one dwelt on the tragedy of Ephraim and his mother. No one showed the wounded little sisters and father. No one sent film crews to their home and to their neighbors.

Ephraim's grisly and untimely death, and his mother's, do not, somehow, arouse the world's revulsion or outrage. This despite the fact that Ephraim - unlike Hilmi - wasn't given to stoning passing cars as an afterschool pastime, despite the fact that the only thing he was doing when he was attacked was riding home with his

family after a holiday outing; despite the fact that his death was beyond a doubt no accident, not even manslaughter.

Ephraim's death was the most coldly premeditated murder possible. And unlike Korman, Ephraim's murderers were not horrified when he fell, and they did not frantically try to revive him.

Most likely Ephraim's murderers even feel a sense of failure because they only got the mother and son and didn't succeed in finishing off the entire family.

Trust the world media to apply a double standard. We already know that one child's life isn't as precious as another's.

The world media wasn't, after all, very much concerned when 16-year-old David Boim of Jerusalem was gunned down on his way home from school in May. He got a brief mention on the foreign networks as "a settler." No one focused on the fact that he was a boy waiting for a bus to take him home.

Somehow that made his slaughter more palatable, if not altogether legitimate. It painted the Arabs whiter.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

## Too much in return for nothing

MY husband met with Yasser Arafat. While I respect my husband and practice what I preach about understanding, civilized communication and tolerance, I beg to differ with the parade of Jews who have been making pilgrimages to the chairman of the Palestinian Authority.

With all due respect, I feel that these meetings increase Arafat's stature, that they bring him deference and honor - and, quite frankly, bring the Jews nothing in return.

I cannot forget that it was our partner in peace who opened fire on our soldiers just a few months ago.

I cannot forget Arafat's speeches to his people in which he speaks of jihad, armed struggle, the Zionist enemy, and the liberation of all of Palestine.

I cannot forget Arafat's condolence call to the family of Yihye Ayyash, "the Engineer," in which he referred to Ayyash as a holy martyr, as he did to the female terrorist who blew up at a bus, killing innocent men, women and children.

Nor can I overlook Arafat's latest claim that Abraham was neither Jewish nor a Hebrew but simply an Iraqi, and thus Jews have no right to claim the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

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words; and I am suspicious and frightened by his new tactic of achieving by "peace" talks what he could not gain through war and terror.

Meanwhile terror continues.

Arafat constantly refers to the covenant the prophet Mohammed made with the tribe of Kureish, a treaty he broke when the time was right, when that tribe became weak. He then proceeded to slaughter them.

Arafat has compared that treaty to the Oslo accords and has stated on many occasions that the rift and discord in Israeli society will weaken us to the point where the Palestinians can then conquer us.

As much as I yearn for peace, I cannot help but distrust Arafat's intentions, based on his own

days of the Maccabees. The Greeks sought to create a "New Middle East" with a common language, culture, and religion.

Only a handful of "insane" zealots who wanted to preserve our spiritual ties to Judaism stopped Hellenistic domination over the whole region and fought to the death to preserve Jewish values and beliefs.

We are again in danger of both physical destruction from within and spiritual destruction from within. We must resolve our differences in order to preserve what generations of our ancestors died to keep alive: our very Jewish identity.

When a Jewish police force compels an observant Jew to desecrate Shabbat my heart aches and my soul is tormented.

The challenge to Zionism today is to fill the magnificent entity we have built here with the spirit of Jewish principles, not Hellenistic ones.

The writer's son Nachshon was killed by Hamas terrorists in October 1994.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### BORDER POLICE VIOLENCE

Sir, - In an otherwise well-written article entitled "On the Beat" (*J.P.*, December 6) Bill Hutman made some errors in relating what I reported to him. I would like to set the record straight on two of them.

1. I did not go "to the media" with any "findings" from any military report. I pointed out that both Prof. Dan Bar-On and I (and not I alone) gave an interview in 1988 to *Ha'aretz* in which we gave our personal impressions of the condition of soldiers serving in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, without presenting any data or "findings" from a military report. The statements that Hutman mentions in the article concerning our work are also based on those impressions and are not based on data from the report.

2. With regard to those impressions, the article states our position as saying that there were "detrimetal effects" of "strain" on soldiers in the intifada. However, our impressions agreed with publicly-released data from other studies that the detrimetal effects were apparent in only small numbers of soldiers. The problem that I pointed out was that

the Israel Defence Forces ignored these immediate effects, as well as the possible long-term moral, psychological and organizational effects that are not apparent immediately after the event. The quotes in the article from psychologist Alain Weinstein of the Border Police also appear to reflect a misunderstanding of our basic position.

The tragedy of the service of IDF soldiers and the Border Police in the intifada is that violence toward civilians, in spite of all denials, became a norm in the following ways: violence is widespread (hundreds of complaints from Palestinians are being handled by the Justice Ministry); soldiers are not discouraged from performing acts of gratuitous violence; they are punished lightly if at all when caught; and, with few exceptions, soldiers appear to suffer little or no remorse over committing violent acts unless the video camera catches them.

PROFESSOR CHARLES W. GREENBAUM  
Jerusalem.

#### BLUNDER

Sir, - Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, made a serious blunder in choosing *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman as the main speaker for their recent Los Angeles function. That blunder was in no way diminished by the self-serving opinion article Foxman rushed to have published in *The Jerusalem Post* ("No to informal censorship," December 11).

No use of "high-falutin'" principles, such as the right to bear "different perspectives on the peace process" justifies making a man like Friedman the "guest of honor" at a major event of a Jewish organization dedicated to fighting defamation of Jews. Foxman pulls out all stops, by claiming that by having this pro-PLO Jew as its "guest of honor," the ADL was actually defending great democratic principles of free speech and a free press. Foxman's ludicrous justification of Friedman as the ADL main speaker is worthy of an award, in and of itself, for cynical and satirical mumbo-jumbo.

RUTH and NADIA MATAR,  
Women in Green,  
Jerusalem.

#### RAIL LINK

##### RECOMMENDED

Sir, - It seems to me that providing the Palestinians with a rail link rather than an open highway between Gaza and the West Bank will have numerous advantages among which are:

1. Saving lives - traffic accidents on Israeli highways are already a national disaster. Statistically, putting thousands of Palestinian trucks on an open highway will result in more accidents and unfortunately more traffic deaths.

2. Economics - a rail link, utilizing where possible existing infrastructure, would be less expensive than building a new four- or six-lane highway.

3. Israel sovereignty - giving the Palestinians a passageway will result in the loss of Israeli sovereignty over that portion of the land. A rail link would maintain Israeli control.

STANLEY J. BROCHSTEIN  
Rehovot.

#### THE WAYS OF JUSTICE

Sir, - Drzen Erdemovic, a soldier in the Bosnian army, was recently found guilty of crimes against humanity, at the International War Crimes tribunal in The Hague. He admitted killing "up to 100" Moslems during the Bosnian war. His sentence: 10 years. With good behavior, he could be released before then.

Jonathan Pollard, a naval intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty in 1985 to passing classified information to Israel. His sentence: life, with a recommendation that he never be paroled. He has already served over 11 years of this sentence, with no end in sight.

I can only assume, therefore, that mass murder isn't as serious a crime as giving Israel information needed to defend itself. Israel was legally entitled to this information, but it was withheld by individuals in the American administration.

ANDREW BROOKE  
Downsview, Ontario.

#### BAR-ILLAN'S DISCLAIMER

Sir, - David Bar-Illan was so naive as to believe that as senior aide to the prime minister he can make statements of importance and claim "I was speaking privately" (your report of December 8). He must surely know that in his position, when making a public comment on an important issue, there is no such thing as speaking privately.

Mr. Bar-Illan should have realized by now that he is no longer editor of *The Jerusalem Post* and no longer pontificating in his *Eye on the Media*, which was in any event very often controversial, and in making comments on the ADL/ZOA domestic "quarrel," he must realize that, in their own way, both organizations are very pro-Israel.

In my view, in spite of *New York Times* columnist Friedman having upset the community, more harm than good could come from the confrontation and therefore I support the ADL for having issued the invitation.

KENNETH BERG  
Netanya.

### POSTSCRIPTS

A BUSINESS student sued PepsiCo Inc. for not giving him a Haizer fighter jet like the one featured in a promotional TV ad.

John Leonard, 21, of Miami, accused Pepsi of breach of contract, fraud, deceptive and unfair trade practices, and misleading advertising. Pepsi maintains the commercial was a spoof and says it has a perfect right to use humor in its advertising.

"If we have to put disclaimers on spots that are obviously farces, where does it end?" a Pepsi spokesman said.

In the promotion, customers who had accumulated points on beverage containers could claim a variety of prizes. As a joke, the company also "offered" the \$70 million fighter jet for seven million points.

To avoid having to drink that much Pepsi, Leonard called the company and said he was told he had the option of buying Pepsi points for 10 cents each.

Five of his friends put up the \$700,000 he needed to claim his prize, and Leonard finally delivered to the company 15 original Pepsi Points plus a check for \$700,008.50 for the remaining 6,999,985 points, "plus shipping and handling," the lawsuit says.

THIS SEXUAL-harassment nonsense is really getting out of hand.

The law showed no mercy for Johnathan Prevette for kissing a female colleague without her consent.

Johnathan is six years old. The little blond American boy with big, thick glasses was punished by his school for the kiss. He was separated from his classmates for a day and not allowed to go to an ice-cream party for pupils with perfect attendance.

Asked what possessed him to kiss a girl, he said: "Because you love them and that you're friends."

His mother Jackie said she wants the school board to revise its policy on sexual harassment to exempt children in the third grade and younger who have no concept of sexuality.

The school denied sexual harassment was ever an issue and defended its decision to punish Johnathan.

IN VINITA, Oklahoma, they're a delicacy called "calf fries." Elsewhere they're called "prairie oysters." The French call them "roubignoles," a slang word that roughly translates as "family jewels."

They're the part of a bull the steer probably wishes he could still call his own.

Vinita, a town of 5,800, and Domevre-en-Haye, a French village of 400, claim the world's only festivals honoring bull testicles, and this year they're swapping recipes at Vinita's 17th Annual Calf Fry.

"It's good!" proclaimed Domevre-en-Haye's mayor, Jean Francois Segault, at breakfast, biting boldly into a fried testicular nugget.

Segault helped judge 25 teams each preparing 18 kg of calf fries for the cook-off.

He said Vinita's chewy, sliced, batter-dipped, deep-fried morsels are nothing like the boiled, sauteed version in France. "Ours are made in a sauce with cream and white wine and mushrooms," Segault said. "Here, it is very different."

BLACK HELICOPTERS, armored personnel carriers, a UN insignia - and the Internet is up and away again about mysterious UN vehicles roaming the US.

Officials at the UN sought to quash a new alarm spread via the Internet about UN vehicle sightings, long a staple of American anti-government groups who say the global body is trying to take over the country.

The most recent report came from an Internet chat group. A woman said her husband saw tanks, armored cars and troop transport trucks bearing the UN emblem being carried on train flatcars through their town.

"We live in Indiana and this track runs from New York to California. Thought that you might find this interesting," Kathy told the chat group.

"What does this mean?" said chief UN spokeswoman Sylvana Foa at her daily briefing. "Well, we checked, and yes there are six leased armored personnel carriers of various types being transported back to the United States from UN peacekeeping missions."

The vehicles, leased from the US, were used in Rwanda and Somalia and were being shipped back to the US Defence Distribution Depot in Texas, Texas, said. "There is no cause for alarm and they will be repaired once they get to the depot. So anyone here who sees APCs traveling across America, not to worry," Foa added.

# Robin Hood he ain't

YOSEF GOELL

THERE is something fishier than ever in this year's budget debate.

One of the first things we heard from newly-elected Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu six-and-a-half months ago was that there was a monstrous budget deficit of NIS 4.9 billion, which, if not eliminated in one fell swoop, would bring the economy to its knees.

Since then we have been told: Oops! Our mistake - it wasn't just NIS 4.9 billion but an additional NIS 1.9 billion, and if it is not eliminated, etc. etc."

Where did this horrendous deficit emerge from all of a sudden?

We are now being told that it is the result of a very serious shortfall in government revenue, and that the real dimensions of that shortfall became apparent to the new government only after several months in office.

Why then did Netanyahu spout off about those NIS 4.9 billion in his very first days in office? Now that we're into the nitty gritty of the debate on his government's first proposed budget we begin to get a picture of what is going on.

If the main source of the tremendous deficit is in the revenue shortfall the most obvious solution should be sought in that direction: increasing revenue.

But the proposals put forward by Netanyahu and Meridor tend totally to the opposite direction: cutting expenditures - no matter what the social cost - but heaven forbid that revenues should be touched.

The atmosphere surrounding whispered proposals to raise taxes as a possible alternative is similar to what one might expect after telling a particularly lurid sexual joke in the Ponevezh yeshiva.

When someone does make such a heretical suggestion they are palmed off with two supposedly telling arguments against touching taxes:

1. "Read my lips." In the election campaign Netanyahu

promised not to raise taxes.

But if anything has happened to him during the past six months it has been the total collapse of the credibility of his statements to both foreign leaders and the public at home. Nothing will happen to his by-now nonexistent credibility if he breaks that campaign promise and considers a judicious raising of taxes.

2. Higher taxes will dissuade people from working.

## Behind Netanyahu's budget there lurks a hidden agenda

Ha! The impact of cutting government services for people in the lower income brackets is the exact equivalent of raising the taxes of those in the higher income deciles. The people at the bottom will simply have to work harder to make ends meet.

I challenge anyone to show me one bank branch manager, fat-cat lawyer or any other denizen of Israel's very nouveau riche who will give up his position at the rim of the cream pot even if his inflated income is cut by half.

THERE IS a purpose in the insistence of Netanyahu, Dan Meridor and Ya'acov Frenkel on slashing expenditures instead of increasing revenue. It is to achieve their ideological aim of slashing the size of government, the extent of its involvement in the economy and the scope of its socially equalizing programs.

They are exploiting the very real need to deal with the deficit as a pretext for their ideological designs, and there is an obvious giveaway in the way they have gone about cutting expenditures.

One of the most obvious places to cut is the NIS 9 billion a year in government subsidies to employers to cover their National Insurance costs. This should be

one of the first items for slashing, coming long before old age and child benefits are touched or Kupat Holim physicians' fees upped.

But that would mean forcing those at the top, who have been the main beneficiaries of Israel's boom during the past few years, to shoulder a fairer share of the burden.

On the revenue side raising taxes (income, not VAT) should not be the first priority. There is a large untaxed black economy in Israel that has been assessed at about one quarter of the economy.

Neither Labor nor Likud governments have ever tried to deal seriously with this problem - which is no reason why a new and young prime minister, ostensibly bringing in a breath of fresh air, shouldn't take on this challenge.

In his TV address to the nation earlier this week, the prime minister promised that if the country pulls in its collective belt next year we will all be better off in a few years.

This is highly unlikely, judging by the egregiously unequal way the benefits of the past few years of prosperity have been divided up, creating an unprecedented gap between rich and poor and an increasingly frustrated middle.

We are already one of the 20 richest countries in the world. Netanyahu is promising us that if only we go Margaret Thatcher's way we will be among the Top Ten.

But a truly civilized - and, dare I add, truly Jewish - society should be judged by how it uses its affluence to take care of its young, its aged, its sick and other unfortunates.

Here's hoping the Knesset social lobby succeeds in forcing our would-be Thatchers to their knees in the Knesset Finance Committee.

The writer comments on current affairs.



# Beyond quoting the Talmud

MORDECHAI GAFNI

I recall a rainy Friday afternoon in Palm Beach some years ago. A woman was screaming in my study. She was a secular Jew who had only recently become involved in exploring her Jewish identity.

I had performed the funeral service for her six-year-old son only two weeks before. The child had died of leukemia.

Why was this woman, still in the throes of acute grief, outraged to the point of near-hysteria?

It emerged that a friend had brought her a recent clipping from *The Jerusalem Post* International Edition. The article in question quoted a well-known Israeli rabbinical figure as declaring that the children killed at the Habonim junction when an oncoming train smashed into their bus died because the mezzuzot in the homes of their parents were faulty.

My visitor told me vehemently: If Orthodox Judaism said God had killed her son as a punishment for sin she wanted no part of such a religion, or such a God.

I explained to her that there was another Judaism, that there were other Orthodox rabbis who did not claim to have a direct line to God.

"Why don't those rabbis speak out?" she asked. Sadly I responded, "They are afraid."

"But what about you?" she challenged. "Why don't you speak out?" Taken aback, I had no answer.

Last week, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef told 8,000 people in Tel Aviv that the cause of all the tragedies befalling the Jewish people today

is Shabbat desecration. He further argued that anyone who flagrantly violates Shabbat cuts himself off from the Jewish people.

To declarations like this the rabbinical establishment has no response. They are afraid, for a lot of reasons. And Rabbi Yosef is a great scholar.

But I cannot remain silent. Because I am a rabbi and because I love Shabbat. Because I respect Rabbi Yosef. And because

and love only, even - and especially - while we argue.

BUT THE issue runs deeper. Rabbi Yosef suggests that all suffering results from sin. He claims to know with certainty how God runs the world. Can any human being know that?

No less a figure than Moses disagreed radically with Rabbi Yosef. Moses is depicted in the Talmud (Berachot 7a) as crying out to God: "Why do good peo-

ple suffer in the world?"

Moses dared to ask; for Rabbi Yosef there is no question. They must have sinned.

The clear implication of Moses' question is that suffering isn't always related to sin. People - and we all know of examples - suffer even when they are good.

Let's look at another book, the book of Job. Its entire point is that we don't understand how God runs the world.

Job's friends argue that Job's suffering must be a result of his "Shabbat desecration." But God sides with Job against his would-be comforters.

The book of Job understands that if we are really in a relationship with God we can live with the uncertainty of not always knowing why things happen. It is only when we are distant from God that we feel the desperate need to cling to black-and-white schemes of sin and retribution and lash out against the alleged sinners.

Jeremiah, Isaiah, Habakkuk, the great prophetic voices of Israel, all cry out to God in anguish: "Why is there such suffering in Your world?"

Even though these men were prophets who conversed with God they did not presume to understand why people experience horrendous pain during their lives.

There's more to Judaism than quoting the Talmud. There's also taking responsibility for what you say, when you say it, in what context and to whom.

Judaism is about trying to experience God's goodness as a living reality, about reaching out to others in love and understanding and not taking the risk of turning them away through castigating.

Let's be misunderstood: I respect and esteem Rabbi Yosef greatly. But I also respect the spiritual intuitiveness of that wounded mother who challenged me - a representative of Orthodox Judaism - knowing clearly that God hadn't killed her baby as retribution for sin.

Our nation is thirsty for genuine spiritual leadership from people like Rabbi Yosef. We badly need the depth and beauty of Torah and Talmud. But we need it dispensed with kindness and love.

The writer is director of Milah, the Jerusalem Institute for Jewish Culture.

# It's a good idea, but...

MARK A. HELLER

DESPITE Prime Minister Netanyahu's perpetual optimism the initiatives that come out of the Prime Minister's Office betray a kind of tacit acknowledgement that his basic policies aren't really going to produce the secure peace voters were promised.

Take the earliest such initiative, "Lebanon First."

The idea that Syria would suddenly reverse its position and approve a separate deal on Lebanon after having rejected it consistently for years was so fanciful that it cannot even be dignified by the term "trial balloon."

But it did have the merit of appearing to revive, if temporarily, some kind of diplomatic movement - or at least of distracting attention.

More recently Netanyahu has put forward another suggestion that might somehow seem to compensate for the paralysis in the peace process with both Syria and the Palestinians.

Last week in Lisbon he addressed the conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the institutional successor of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In his talk the premier endorsed the proposal that the European model be applied to the Middle East.

The CSCE aimed at containing and stabilizing the conflictual East-West relationship by creating an organizational framework within which some agreed guidelines and procedures for coexistence were adopted.

These guidelines, formalized at the 1975 founding meeting in Helsinki, were divided into three baskets: a political-security one (which recognized post-World War II boundaries, enshrined the non-use of force, and laid the groundwork for the development of a range of confidence-building measures); an economic one (promoting trade and capital flows); and a human-rights one (committing the participants to respect human rights and liberalize their domestic regimes).

Like "Lebanon First" the idea of establishing some similar institutional arrangement in the Middle East is too logical not to have been thought of before. It was actively promoted by the Crown Prince Hassan in the early 1990s, incorporated into the Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty and more recently endorsed by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

AT FIRST glance the idea of a CSCEM seems unobjectionable. It could contribute to the management of conflicts, the prevention of crises, the promotion of economic interchange and the breaking down of cultural and other barriers.

It could help sustain or encourage the peace process - or at least provide some kind of

safety net in case the process was in even more danger of collapsing than it is now.

But most Arab states, including some not in an active state of confrontation with Israel, are not really interested in a safety net in case the peace process fails, less that make the prospect of failure less frightening to the rest of the world.

Ostensibly such institutions, like the multilateral working

**A Mideast organization for coexistence based on the European CSCE model? The Arabs won't buy it**

groups set up at Madrid, imply some kind of creeping normalization with Israel before the political conflicts have been settled, i.e., before the border questions are definitively resolved.

These states' rationale is that cooperation, security-building and normalization cannot precede the resolution of these political problems, which did not exist as impediments in Europe (although plenty of Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians would argue otherwise).

In any case, they are certainly not going to adopt the part of Helsinki that recognized existing borders.

In a few cases, especially Syria, there are other, even more compelling reasons for an unenthusiastic approach.

According to some interpretations of the Cold War, the third Helsinki basket - the one about liberalization, openness, and human rights - was added as window-dressing in exchange for the political and economic concessions made by the West to the Soviet Union. The Soviets didn't intend to take it seriously, and most people in the West did not really expect them to. But things didn't quite work out according to plan.

If the regimes in eastern Europe didn't take these formulas seriously, their domestic critics and dissidents did, and the authorities, in accordance with their international obligations, had to loosen the barriers to intellectual and cultural exchanges and access to information.

Some of the early manifestations of Helsinki were the Charter 77 movement in Czechoslovakia and Solidarity in Poland.

It would be stretching things a bit to argue that the CSCE eventually led to the implosion of communism in eastern Europe and the end of the Cold War - the dismal economic perfor-

mance of the command economies was a far more potent factor - but it certainly played some role in intensifying the pressures that the authors of glasnost and perestroika tried (and failed) to accommodate.

Netanyahu is aware of all this; in fact, the idea of a "Helsinki process" in the Middle East conforms very well with his view that real peace in the region depends on a fundamental democratization of Arab regimes.

But Arab rulers, especially Hafez Assad, also appreciate the potentially dangerous, unintended consequences of applying a CSCE model in their neighborhood, and they are determined to avoid repeating the mistakes of their Soviet counterparts. (Assad reportedly still doesn't understand why Mikhail Gorbachev is so admired in the West - after all, his whole ultimate accomplishment was to get his country broken up and himself thrown out of power.)

But even if the Arab rulers are better tactical managers they see no compelling reason to invite the camel of political subversion to stick its CSCE nose into the tent.

In short, there is no reason to expect that Assad will be any more receptive to CSCEM than he was to "Lebanon First."

Of course that's no reason to stop thinking about it as an intellectual exercise or marketing it as a public relations one.

But there should be no illusion that it could act as a substitute for movement in the bilateral negotiations, or an insurance policy against the dangers of a peace process gone completely off the rails.

The writer is senior research associate at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

ple suffer in the world?"

Ovadia Yosef does not speak for me. Nor, despite his erudition, does he speak for my Judaism. Above all, he does not speak for my God.

Furthermore, he does not even accurately represent the classic positions of haredi Judaism.

The acclaimed haredi authority, the Hazon Ish, explains: In a world where God is "obvious to all," a Shabbat violator might perhaps be seen as excluding himself from the people of Israel or rebelling against God. In our confused world such an interpretation clearly does not hold.

In a world of *hester panim*, one where "God's face is hidden," where He is often far from visible, our response to our fellow Jews who do not observe Shabbat should be one of understanding

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# France opposes US's candidate for UN top job

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The UN Security Council resumed the search for a new chief yesterday with no sign France is softening its opposition to the presumed US favorite, apparently to pay back Washington for blocking a second term for Boutros Boutros Ghali.

France has consistently voted against UN undersecretary Kofi Annan of Ghana, even though the 58-year-old chief of UN peace-keeping operations has emerged as the strongest of four candidates in two days of unofficial balloting in the 15-member council.

Diplomatic sources said the French would like to see other candidates enter the race for UN secretary-general rather than allow Annan to win the top UN post.

Annan is the only one of four candidates to surpass the nine council votes required for election. Results were secret, but diplomatic sources said Annan won 12 votes in the first two rounds Wednesday and 11 in the third.

But as one of the five permanent council members, France could veto Annan in an official vote. The United States vetoed a second term for Boutros Ghali November 19, saying he has been too sluggish in promoting UN reform. France strongly backed Boutros Ghali.

As the meeting began, German ambassador Antonius Eitel said he expected no changes in the voting pattern. France has been voting against Annan and the United States and Britain, also permanent members, opposing the other three candidates - all from French-speaking Africa.

Permanent members France, the US, Britain, China and Russia all have veto power on the council.

France's presumed favorite, Ivory Coast Foreign Minister

Amara Essy, won seven votes in the first two rounds and six in the third. The United States and Britain apparently voted against him.

Two other candidates - former Niger Prime Minister Hamid Algabid and former Mauritanian Foreign Minister Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah - were fading. The United States and Britain were said to oppose them, too.

With the prospect of a deadlock, diplomats said the United States may force a formal vote to see if France would openly veto a widely supported African. Western diplomats have also hinted that the field could be opened to non-African candidates.

But other diplomats said China would probably veto any non-African candidate. Russia also supports limiting the field of candidates to Africans. Choosing an African would be in accordance with the UN tradition of giving each continent two terms.

US ambassador Madeleine Albright conferred Wednesday night with French ambassador Alain Dejammet but evidently failed to find a way out of the impasse.

The bitterness generated by the American campaign against Boutros Ghali has complicated negotiations, diplomatic sources said.

France has insisted that the next secretary-general speak fluent French. Annan speaks French but comes from an English-speaking country.

In principle, Boutros Ghali, 74, could revive his candidacy if the council is deadlocked. But that appears out of the question.

The council must choose a new secretary-general and forward the name to the 185-member General Assembly before the end of this month.



A Siberian tiger carrying a chicken walks on the roof of a feed vehicle at Harbin's Siberian Tiger Park in Heilongjiang province in northeast China yesterday. Visitors to the park buy a chicken for 40 yuan (NIS 15) and watch as keepers feed the live birds to the tigers. The park opened in January this year to save tigers from starving on a breeding farm that had fallen into financial trouble after the government banned the use of tiger body-parts in medicines. There are 30 tigers in the park, while 50 others remain at the farm.

## Wanted German nuclear scientist arrested in Brazil

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - A German chemist suspected of selling nuclear technology to Iraq in 1989 and 1990 has been arrested in Brazil pending an extradition hearing, police said yesterday.

A federal police spokeswoman said Karl Heinz Schaab, 62, was arrested on Tuesday in Rio de Janeiro when he went to re-register as a foreign national living in Brazil.

"He came in looking for information, was identified and arrested on a court order," she said.

Schaab is wanted in Germany for allegedly selling uranium enrichment technology to Iraq without authorization by the German government, police said. They said he stole blueprints for building nuclear facilities and sold them to Iraqi agents.

The spokeswoman said Schaab, who was living in Rio, had a two-year temporary work visa and was seeking to extend that to a permanent visa when he was arrested.

A local news agency said the temporary visa was issued July 10 and that Schaab was hoping to open a business in Brazil. It was not clear how long he had been in the country.

Brazil's Supreme Court ordered his arrest two months ago following a request by German officials, the spokeswoman said.

## Rwandan refugees flee biggest camp in Tanzania

NGARA, Tanzania (Reuters) - Rwandan Hutu refugees fled the biggest camp in northwestern Tanzania yesterday, and UN refugee agency officials said as many as 180,000 could be on the move from that camp alone.

The latest exodus, from Benaco camp, brings to about 320,000 the number of Rwandan refugees who have escaped from 13 camps in Tanzania, apparently for fear of forced repatriation to Rwanda.

Judith Melby, spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency UNHCR, told Reuters that Benaco camp was now almost empty. "Certainly to us it looks like an organized movement, which we regret since we had just started our repatriation program," she added.

In the Kenyan capital Nairobi, a spokeswoman for the UN World Food Program (WFP), said that with movement out of Benaco it was likely smaller camps would follow suit.

"There is a mass movement. But it is unclear where these people are going. Once a big camp like Benaco starts to move then clearly the smaller ones will also start to go," said spokeswoman Michele Quintaglio.

Officials blame the exodus on intimidation of the refugees by the Interahamwe, Rwandan Hutu militiamen who led the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The Interahamwe are determined not to go home because they fear reprisals or prosecution.

Earlier yesterday, about 90,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees fled the Lumasi camp in northwestern Tanzania to avoid repatriation to Rwanda.

Julie Johnson, spokeswoman for the UN World Food Program (WFP) in Ngara, told Reuters the camp at Lumasi, which had a population of 113,000, was 80 percent empty.

"It appears the camp is virtually empty," Johnson added. "All commercial activity has stopped. The WFP warehouse at Lumasi camp was looted."

Tanzania and the UNHCR had given the refugees until the end of the month to leave the camps and return to Rwanda.

Heavily armed Tanzanian army troops moved into the area around the camps yesterday but it was unclear whether Tanzania, traditionally hospitable toward refugees, would use its troops. The army has some 10,000 men in the region but it has not yet tried to round up refugees.

Most cases in western Germany were settled long ago but German unification in 1990 has thrown up a series of new claims in the former Communist east, where the law did not apply.

The Tetlow-Seehof case, being pursued by the heirs of businessmen Max and Albert Sabersky, is one of the biggest such claims and could set the tone for similar cases in the east.

The local government agency responsible for resolving property issues has rejected the Sabersky claims, saying it believes the businessmen received a fair price for their land.

## South Africa grants amnesty as new requests pour in

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South Africa's post-apartheid "truth commission" yesterday pardoned four anti-apartheid whites and three anti-apartheid black vigilantes for human rights crimes in the final days of white rule.

Ruling on 16 applications, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu granted and refused applications for self-confessed perpetrators of human rights crimes on both sides of the struggle over apartheid.

Those whites given amnesty, were right-wingers responsible for bombings shortly after Nelson Mandela's African National Congress began democracy talks with then president F.W. de Klerk's white-led National Party. The blacks pardoned were members of an ANC-aligned self-defense unit that killed three black gangsters terrorizing their township near Kromstad.

"They walk as if the offense had never happened," Alex Boraine, deputy chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said at a news conference.

## Jewish family bids to regain east German land

BERLIN (Reuters) - Members of a Jewish family who claim the Nazis forced them to sell land in eastern Germany in the 1930s below the market rate began a court case yesterday to try to get their former property back.

A spokesman for the court in Potsdam said the current case involved claims on 11 properties in the town of Tetlow-Seehof, south of Berlin, but that the heirs also laid claim to a further 800 properties in the area.

Jewish families whose property was confiscated or unfairly sold by the Nazis can claim restitution under German law.

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The local government agency responsible for resolving property issues has rejected the Sabersky claims, saying it believes the businessmen received a fair price for their land.

The government's program, overwhelmingly approved by parliament on Wednesday, is short on specific economic targets.

This is another kind of government, capable and willing to change Romania's fate," Prime Minister Victor Ciurba said after taking the oath in the Cotroceni presidential palace.

"A government that will fight poverty and catch the train of history moving toward integration into NATO and Europe."

The government is the offspring of a pact struck after Emil Constantinescu and his centrist allies forced ex-Communists from government for the first time since 1989 in presidential and general elections last month.

Most jobs went to the president's Democratic Convention (CDR) bloc and its Social Democratic coalition partners. Also included for the first time in the post-communist era were two leaders of Romania's 1.6 million ethnic Hungarians.

## Romanian cabinet sworn in after confidence vote

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - A reformist government forged from a political deal to overturn Romania's post-Communist legacy took office yesterday after parliament backed its pledges to speed up market-oriented change.

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India has had little success with its short-range anti-aircraft missile program, even though it has so far test fired about 30 Trishul missiles, UNI said.

The Trishul, named for the trident carried by the Hindu god Shiva, has a range of 500 meters to nine kilometers, and can carry a 15-kilogram warhead.

# Police halt student march on Milosevic home

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Riot police halted 30,000 students yesterday as they marched towards the Belgrade home of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic as part of their joint campaign with the political opposition to drive him from power.

A cordon of police in riot armor halted the students under the windows of the US Embassy, which has threatened Milosevic with reprisals if he crushes the three-week-old anti-government demonstrations with force.

Although the demonstrations against socialist rigging of local elections on November 17 have been peaceful, the atmosphere became nervous as the students turned back and still more police appeared in side streets along the march route.

The confrontation happened as Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini met Milosevic and leaders of the Zajedno (Together) coalition of opposition parties, who claim the socialists cheated them of victory in Belgrade and 14 other towns.

Dini's mission - apparently supported by the US, which has vowed to isolate Milosevic internationally - began as the opposition faced a critical test of its ability to mobilize mass street protests against Milosevic.

Daily demonstrations in Belgrade by Zajedno and the students have shrunk to around half of the 150,000 people who turned out at their peak. The falling numbers have eased the pressure on Milosevic.

Political sources said it was unlikely that Milosevic would budge on possession of the capital though he might pacify Zajedno by handing over other towns.

The authorities have begun to take a tougher line since a young worker was arrested and beaten by police for carrying an effigy of Milosevic in prison garb at a march last week.

Belgrade actor Gorko Balotic, who was arrested during Wednesday's demonstration, was also beaten before being released with head and leg injuries, his wife told reporters.

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A shloshim memorial for **MAIDI (Sarah Gittel) KATZ** will take place on Sunday, December 15, 1996 at 8 p.m. at Yakar, 10 Rehov Halamed Heh, Jerusalem. Friends and Family invited. Details: 02-563-0220.

A year has passed and we deeply miss our husband and father **ARTHUR HARRISON LOW**. Unveiling of the stone and memorial service on Tuesday, December 17 (Tevet 7, 5757) at 4 p.m. at Nahalat Yitzhak Cemetery, Givatayim. Meeting by the Main Gate. Dalia, Shirley, Adam

The one-year memorial for our beloved **NITZA ETRA-DAGAN** will be held at Hayarkon Cemetery on Sunday, December 15, at 3 p.m. Her Mother, Sons, Sister and Family

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# NEWS IN FOCUS

The Jerusalem Post, Friday, December 13, 1996

## Flesh of our flesh

At the funeral of two murdered settlers, there was none of the old anti-government rhetoric. But Herb Keinon reports that the settlers' anger is just defused, not buried.

BEIT EL's cemetery, sandwiched between rolling hills just outside the settlement, was much too small to accommodate the thousands of mourners at yesterday's funeral of Eita and Ephraim Tzur.

As a result, mourners unable to get into the cemetery stood on terraced hills nearby, straining for a look at what was happening down below. They could see a stretcher, hear the sounds of shovels digging up earth, listen to the eulogies.

The size of yesterday's funeral was similar to another one held at the same site about a year and a half ago for Ohad Bachrach, killed with Ori Shalom while hiking in Wadi Kelt.

Yesterday, as was the case with the Bachrach funeral, the eulogies of the relatives echoed off the hills. Yesterday, as was the case last year, people who didn't know the victims wept openly.

The Psalms recited yesterday, both praising God and calling for Him to take vengeance, were recited at Bachrach's funeral as well. The Psalms gave appropriate voice to the emotions of the speakers and the mourners. And the emotions at the two funerals were obviously similar: heart-rending pain, palpable grief, acute suffering.

But there was one difference. The intense fury levelled at the government during the Labor administration was absent yesterday. There was plenty of anger, but it was aimed at the Palestinian

Authority. Obviously, there was hatred, but it was directed at the killers: Any anger or hatred toward the government or the army was not verbalized, a dramatic break from the way things were prior to the elections just a few months ago.

THE TENURE of the previous government was marked by numerous attacks — so many that government representatives stopped attending funerals. Rarely, if ever, did they attend a funeral of a resident of a settlement.

Yesterday, a handwritten sign at the exit to the Beit El Yeshiva advised students not to talk to the press and not to shout any angry slogans at government or IDF representatives.

This decorum did not exist under the previous administration. Likewise, the previous government did not speak with particular respect or affection toward the settlers.

One remark Yitzhak Rabin made that was particularly galling to the settlers, and which was referred to in one of the eulogies yesterday, was that the government sees its primary responsibility as securing the 97 percent of Israelis who live inside the Green Line. To the 3% in the settlements, these words were jarring.

Terms like "pioneers," "flesh of our flesh," and "heroes" were never used in connection to settlers under the previous govern-

ment. They have returned to the government's lexicon, and explain — at least in part — why anger toward the government was absent from yesterday's funeral.

Since Wednesday night's attack, Prime Minister Netanyahu has told the settlement community pretty much everything it wanted to hear. He pushed the right buttons. The anger over the attack was defused.

Defused, but not buried.

In his eulogy yesterday, Netanyahu called the Tzur family pioneers, "who live among pioneers, the heroes of our time." The prime minister said the time has come, after years of a smear campaign at home and abroad, to say, "Nobody is better than they are. There is nobody like them to continue Israel's heritage, the love of Israel, the love of the land."

"You are the flesh of our flesh," he said. "There is no difference in the security responsibility this government feels to Beit El or Beit Kama, Shilo or Herzliya. There is no difference. We will increase our efforts in this place in order to ensure the security of all Israeli residents."

Music to the ears of a community that felt intentionally marginalized by the Rabin and Peres governments. Even more significant, balm following the type of loss sustained Wednesday night.

The pain is made easier to bear with these type of words, said Mordechai Rabinovitch, a leading



Beit El residents after the attack. "You start to think, it could have been me. It could have been my wife or my family." (Diana Henders)

settlement activist from Kochav Ya'acov. "It is easier hearing that kind of a message than reactions we heard in the past like, 'What were they doing there in the first place?'"

But, Rabinovitch added, if the government on this occasion does not respond with a constructive, Zionist response — meaning more construction in the settlements — then the patience with the government will end and the anger will return. "This license will expire, if there is not a real response to this tragedy," he said.

Daniel Nakonechny, a father of seven who moved to Beit El four years ago from Jerusalem, said the anger has been tamed because people understand that "the situation is complex. This government

inherited this situation from the previous one."

The situation was complex for the Labor governments as well, he is reminded by a visitor, but they were not given any grace.

"They brought it on themselves," he replied. "They got us into the accords."

Nakonechny termed the mood in the settlement one of numbness. "The way it usually is after a loss in the family."

CONCERN with family is an emotion that naturally surfaces after a terror attack, said Tuvia Victor, a resident of the settlement for the last 10 years. "You start to think, it could have been me," Victor said. "It could have been

my wife or my family. That is what you think after something like this. But you try not to think about it, avoid the issue."

Victor was among the first at the scene of the attack Wednesday night. "Each time you see or hear about something like this, you go home, go to each of the children, and just thank God it wasn't you."

Although conversations with Victor, Nakonechny and other Beit El residents reveal the obvious opposition to the Oslo agreement, there were few calls at the funeral to pull out of the talks.

Rather, the theme was for the government to demand that the PA do what it is obliged to do to catch and extradite the killers, and for the government to expand settle-

ments each time there is an attack.

Calls to expand the settlements or build new ones after each attack were rarely — if ever — heard when Labor was in power, because of the realization that they would fall on deaf ears. Now the expectations are different.

Yoel Tzur, whose wife and son were killed Wednesday night, gave voice to this sentiment during the words he spoke at the graveside. "Look at this hill to the north where the water tower is," he said, addressing Netanyahu. "I would like the government to start digging and build a thousand housing units as an answer to the tragedy. We worked hard for you to become prime minister, and we don't regret it. But you have to be strong."

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# Beyond Hebron... The future is now

The Hebron pullback looks easy, compared to what is to come, David Makovsky reports

**M**OST of the public assumes that after a Hebron pullback, all the other thorny issues of the peace process are on hold until 1999, when so-called "final status" talks on a variety of issues, including Jerusalem, are expected to be concluded.

In fact, the future is almost now. Due to a key section of the Oslo II interim agreement, the Palestinians believe they are entitled to no less than almost the entire West Bank by next September - before final status talks even begin. Settlements would become islands in a Palestinian sea, as opposed to the present situation where the Palestinians are more like islands in an Israeli sea.

Differences on this issue, known by the acronym FRDs ("Further Redeployments" or IDF pullbacks) will not only surface in the months ahead, but are one of the main elements blocking the Hebron deal. Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat wants an affirmation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he will carry out three pullbacks by next September. Israel, according to Arafat, has already missed the September 1996 deadline for a first FRD.

But Netanyahu, realizing complexity of these redeployments, wants to skip the whole issue and go directly to the final status. Ironically, while in the past Israel viewed the interim agreement as the key to dealing with painful

issues of final status, Israel now wants a final-status approach while the Palestinians have discovered the redeeming features of the interim agreement. Arafat's adviser Ahmed Tibi reflected a broader view among the Palestinian leadership when he said, "Israel cannot get out of fulfilling the interim agreement."

Even Foreign Minister David Levy, in a briefing for reporters this week, said he did not see how Israel could avoid continuing implementation of the interim agreement.

In either event - the pullbacks or the less likely alternative of going to final status - the public should soon be getting a better - but perhaps not a complete - grasp of how Netanyahu envisions a final-status deal with the Palestinians and how he intends getting there.

TOP Palestinian negotiator for the Oslo II accord Ahmed Qreia, known by his patronym Abu Ala, told *The Jerusalem Post*, "it is my assessment that we will have 85 or 87 percent of the West Bank [by next September] at the end of the interim agreement." Today, the Palestinians completely control just the urban areas of the territories and immediate environs, which consists of about 3 percent of the territory, known as Area A.

Qreia said: "Oslo II said that at the end of the interim agreement, Israel keeps only settlements, Jerusalem and military loca-

tions." All the rest should be completely under the control of the Palestinian Authority. After the interim agreement, this should be the 'A' area under the PA.

Some Israeli officials insist that it is more likely that by the end of the FRDs, the area comprising the estimated 440 Palestinian villages, now labeled Area B, will turn into Area A.

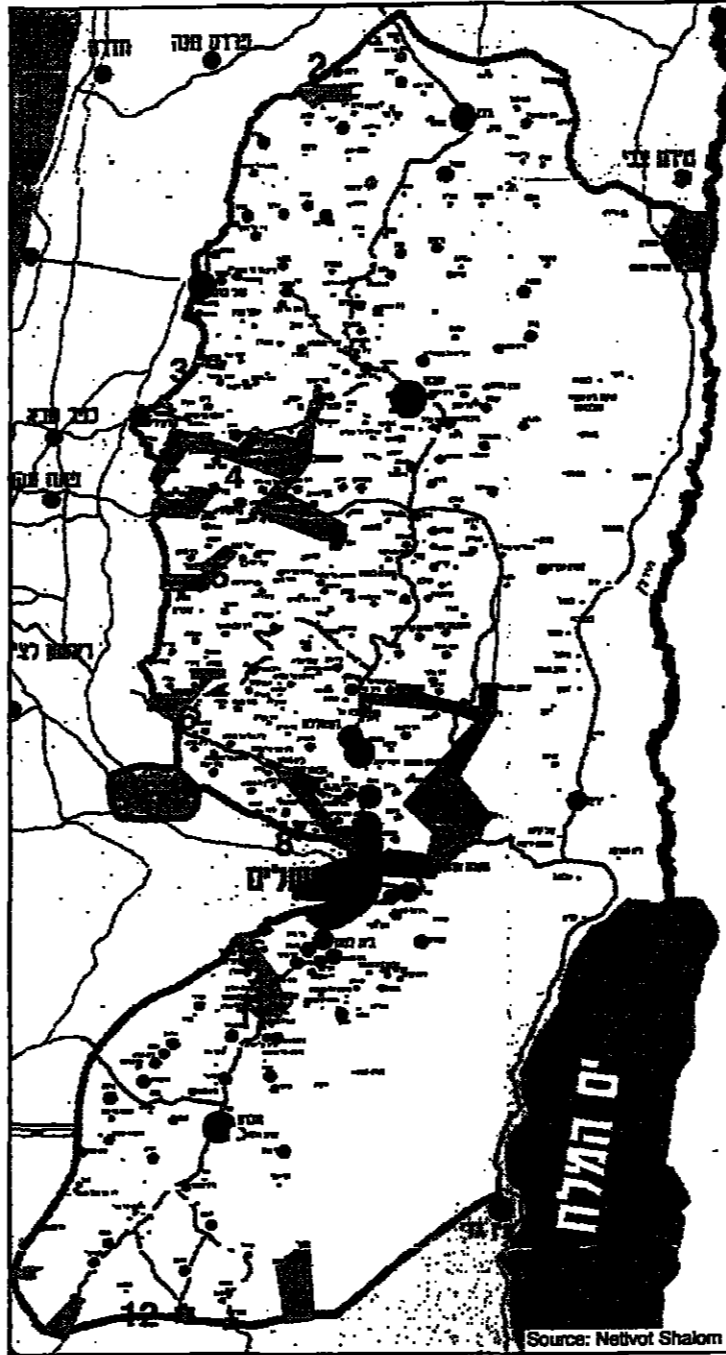
Practically speaking, this means that Palestinians will have overriding security authority over an extra 27 percent of the West Bank. The IDF cannot enter such areas unless, as occurred in an unprecedented fashion this week in Ramallah after the Beit El terror attack, it is invited in by the PA.

Even this narrower Israeli definition will increase the isolation of some of the settlements near densely populated Palestinian areas, and bring to the fore, with greater force, the very future and viability of those specific settlements.

The notion of FRDs emerged from last year's Taba talks which led up to the Oslo II accord. Qreia pressed for Israel to yield about a quarter of the West Bank in each of three installments over an 18-month period, leaving the final quarter to be the subject of final-status talks.

However, then-foreign minister Shimon Peres convinced Arafat that this was unrealistic, as Israel could certainly not make large territorial concessions before the elections, scheduled for November 1996. Instead, they agreed that the extent of the first two pullbacks would be unspecified, but by the end of the third, Israel would indeed make a major pullback.

Labor MK Ehud Barak, then interior minister, was the only minister involved in the peace process who objected at the time. When Peres sought authorization for the FRDs from Yitzhak Rabin, Barak said: "this puts us in an impossible dilemma. If we give so much territory in redeployments, we have no cards when we are faced with the toughest final-status issues. However, if we go to final status now, it could lead to a dead-end because the sides are not yet ripe. It is not good for Israel and not good for peace." Barak was pillo-



Beilin-Abu Mazen Plan

Population centers 12 Jewish settlement blocs to be annexed to Israel

ried by Labor critics who insisted he did not understand the peace process.

The origin of the clause relating to the redeployment can be partially traced to the Camp David Accords, which refers to the IDF pulling back to "specified security locations." Oslo II broadens the pullback idea by narrowing Israel's responsibilities from "security" to more limited "military" locations. Israel's authority in the territory therefore narrows even though its Jewish settlement population is greater than it was during Camp David. Then there were a few thousand settlers, but today there are approximately 140,000 people.

Qreia said that any implausible definition of "specified military locations" would be deemed unacceptable to the Palestinians. "If Israel needs to keep soldiers on a certain mountain or

patrolling borders in the Jordan Valley, we can discuss this. But we cannot discuss this if the Israelis want to use this clause in such a way which makes it clear that they are not serious."

Joel Singer, the former Foreign Ministry legal adviser who negotiated both the original Oslo and Oslo II agreements, puts forward a different interpretation. In a Jewish legal journal, he wrote that Israel has the right to unilaterally "specify" which parts of the West Bank it considers to be a military location, noting that the accord does not use the usual language of "agreed upon" military locations. Foreign Ministry officials say that Israel will use Singer's interpretation when entering these talks.

However, the legal perspective is only one side. The political reality is more complex. The widely divergent expectations could put Netanyahu into a no-win situation.

Specifically, if Netanyahu yields to the Palestinian interpretation on pullbacks, he will be ceding almost all his territorial bargaining chips, and hence lose leverage before the issue of Jerusalem is even raised.

On the other hand, if he does not yield, the Palestinians will almost certainly seek to take their case to what they feel is the highest court - the court of international public opinion.

Arafat has proved more effective than Netanyahu, when he says about Hebron, "I am not asking for the moon. I only want what has been agreed upon." Moreover, this widening gap of expectations incurs the risk, as seen in last September's Western Wall riots, of sustained Palestinian unrest.

This deep-felt concern about the next phase of the peace process has been the biggest force fueling both stepped-up calls within Netanyahu's own coalition for a national unity government, and calls for moving directly to final-status talks. A package deal on final-status issues would avoid, in the eyes of some, the "salami-like" approach to yielding slices of the territories now, depriving Israel of any future negotiating leverage.

WHEN Netanyahu notes how Labor expanded existing settlements by about 40 percent over the last four years, it should be noted that this growth took place within what Rabin considered the "Greater Jerusalem" area, embracing Gush Etzion and Ma'aleh Adumim along with some building slightly east of the Green Line in western Samaria.

Despite the endless press reports about Netanyahu's plans for settlement expansion, the only ones which are known to have gained any approval by the authorities fall within the seven percent lines. Specifically, the only settlement expansion which has gone through full approval is Kiryat Sefer, which is just east of the Green Line, near Modi'in. Two others - Emanuel and Kedumim - are barely within the seven percent lines and have won preliminary approval of the Civil Administration, although they have yet to win final approval from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Here comes Netanyahu's dilemma, and perhaps even his opportunity.

The US is very worried that Netanyahu is about to announce a flurry of settlement expansion to be timed with a Hebron deal - which could undermine US efforts to improve the tense relations between Netanyahu and Israel's Arab neighbors. Such plans could also have a broader impact on the Netanyahu government's ability to forge a strong relationship with a second-term Bill Clinton, no longer bound by electoral considerations.

However, declaring that he has no intention of expanding beyond the seven percent line may be significant in placating some American and Palestinian fears, although Netanyahu apparently believes such a statement would hurt him within his own coalition. Nonetheless, even if final status is only down the road, the time for trade-offs should be now.

Netanyahu might be able to defuse inevitable tensions with the US, Palestinians, and the international community if he could work out a quid pro quo with the Palestinians on the FRDs. In so doing, he would seek to assure Palestinians that Israel is not about to create more "facts on the ground" that would thwart an overall peace deal with the Palestinians, while placate loyal Netanyahu supporters.

Netanyahu would promise Arafat that expansion of existing settlements would be limited to the seven percent area approved by Abu Mazen, perhaps along with a couple other strategic areas. In return, Israel would significantly enlarge Area A. The net effect will be the emergence of evolving zones of influence in the territories - an almost rolling final-status agreement which would unfold over the next three years. (In the final talks, Netanyahu will obviously stake a claim to more than the seven percent of the territory favored by Beilin and Labor.)

But, if tensions on the ground remain high, talks may never even get to that point, unless a modus vivendi is worked out now.

Without clear blueprints on how to handle the FRDs and settlement issues and, critically, how they relate to each other during 1997, profoundly unsettling consequences are possible. If this is not handled properly, the public should buckle its seat belts for a roller-coaster ride next year.

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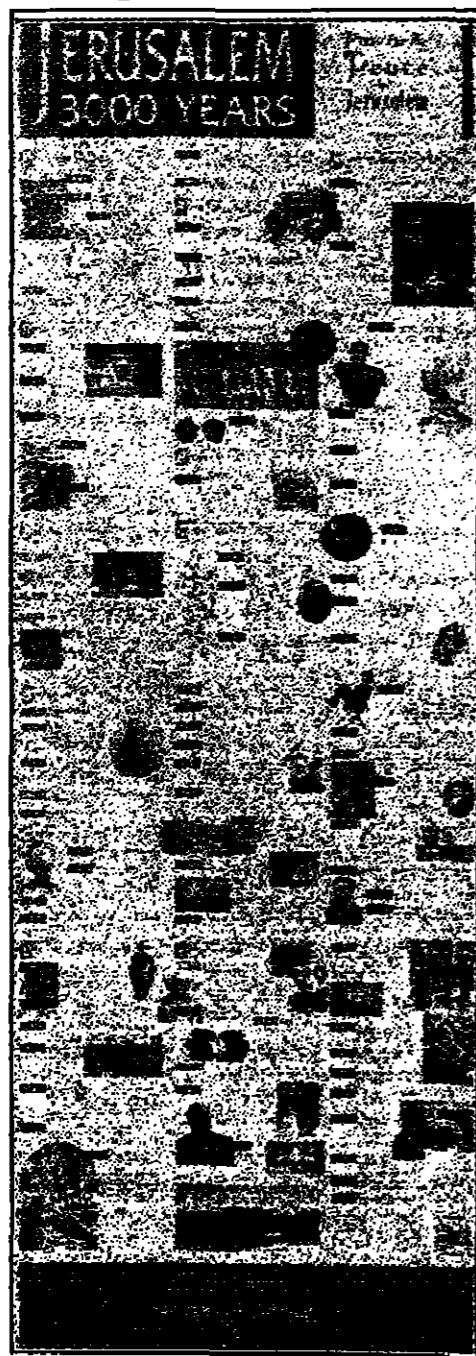
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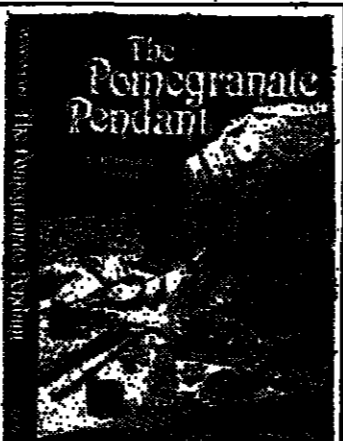


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# Controlling the day of rest

### Look out! The Labor Ministry's 'Shabbat police' will strike again tonight, Sue Fishkoff reports

**B**EGINNING at sundown tonight, and continuing all day tomorrow, inspectors from the Labor Ministry's department of labor-law enforcement will swoop down on Shabbat-violators for the second week in a row, hitting shops and kiosks around the country that defy national law prohibiting their operation on the Jewish day of rest.

It may not bother sleepy Jerusalem, where most shops are tightly closed on Shabbat anyway. But in the overwhelmingly secular towns of Galilee and the greater Tel Aviv area, these little surprise visits from the Labor Ministry are unwelcome indeed.

Last Shabbat, ministry inspectors made the rounds of major commercial areas in Ramat Gan, Giv'atayim, Bifu Junction, Rishpon-Ga'ash, Shefayim Junction and Bat Yam, and paid "warning visits" to kiosks along Ibn Gvirol Street in Tel Aviv. In the north, they hit Karniel, Yokne'am and the shops at Alonim Junction.

All in all, inspectors handed out 20 tickets, requiring business owners to appear in a labor court, where fines will be determined.

Tonight and tomorrow, according to the ministry's labor law department director Ephraim Cahalon, inspectors will visit most of the same areas again - issuing tickets to businesses they have already warned - and will hit additional "trouble spots," including the shops at Givat Bremer.

Cahalon insists his department's weekend sweeps are nothing new. "We do this all the time," he claims, although he admits that for four years under the previous Labor-led government, enforcement of the Shabbat labor law was "less stringent."

In fact, it was nonexistent, claim

business owners in some of the targeted shopping areas. "Until 1992, inspectors used to come around, but then we didn't see a soul for four years," maintains Alan Stevin, a part owner of Atlas Furniture in Moshav Rishpon, a well-known, bustling Shabbat shopping area.

"Now, literally the week before the new government took office, they came through again just to show their faces, as if they'd been doing it all along, which they hadn't."

Rescison from affected business owners ranges from sullen acceptance to outspoken defiance.

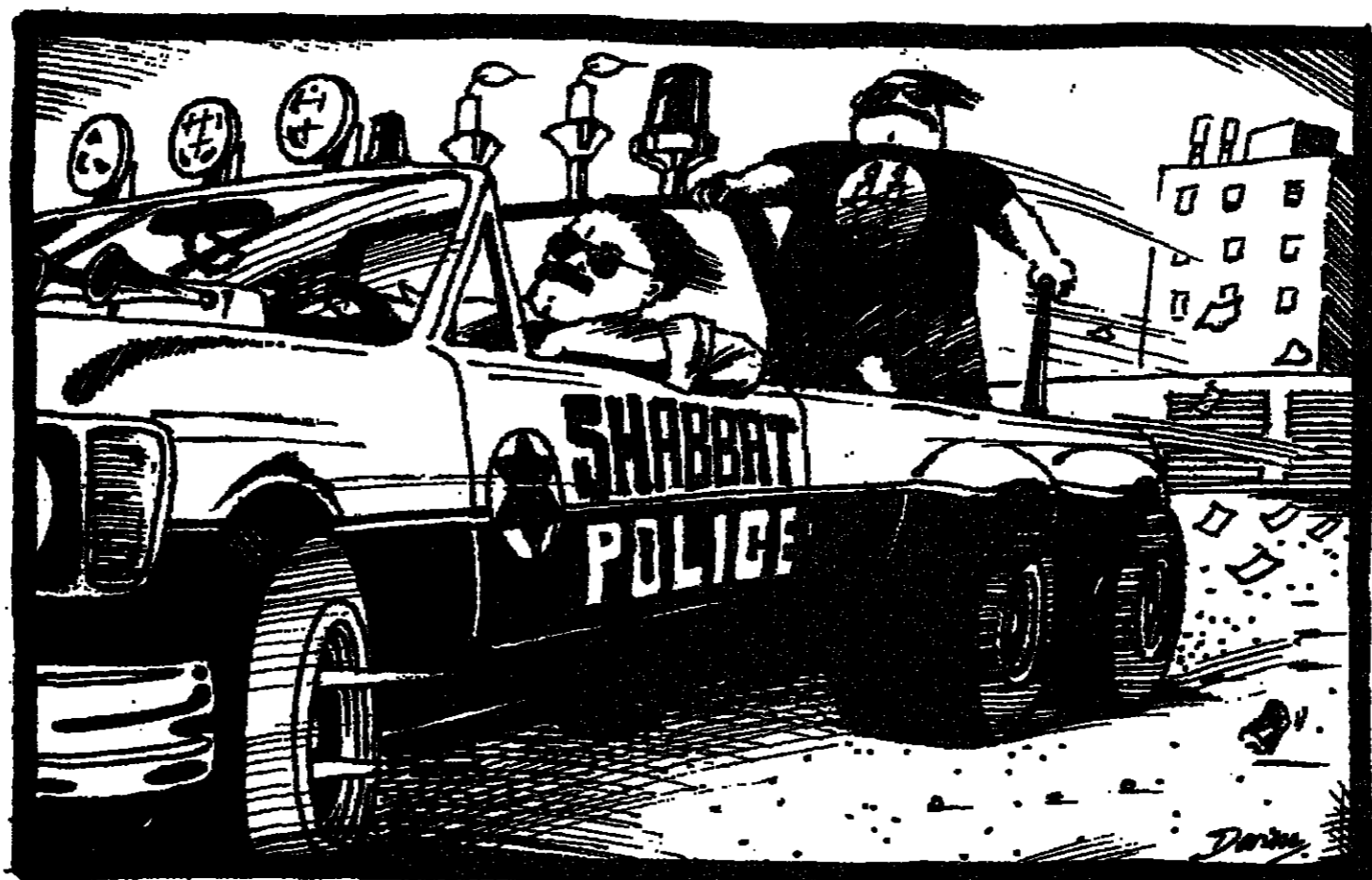
Big multinational stores, with headquarters abroad, seem content to ride out the domestic fracas in diplomatic silence. Top management at Ace Hardware and Toys 'R' Us - multinational chains with stores at the Ga'ash interchange - both offer "no comment." An employee at Toys 'R' Us, speaking on condition of anonymity, suggests that the store "will pay the fine, if we get one, and just get on with business."

A huge operation like Toys 'R' Us may be able to brush off a fine of thousands of shekels, but a fine of even a few hundred shekels can represent a week's revenue to a small mom-and-pop corner kiosk.

Michel Ben-Abu, who works at a kiosk on the corner of Ibn Gvirol and Jabotinsky streets in Tel Aviv, says his kiosk sets its operating hours in order to avoid government inspectors.

"We work after sundown on Friday, but we usually close by 7 p.m. because the inspectors don't come around until then," he says. "Last week, we closed earlier because we knew they were coming. And they did. We don't want to argue with them."

Avivit Zinner, owner of the "Mamakel Aviv" kiosk at the corner



of Ibn Gvirol and Basel streets in Tel Aviv, says that closing her shop on Shabbat will hurt her business significantly. "If I close if they tell me to, but it isn't right," she says. "What can I do? But I'll stay open this Friday night until I see them coming."

PEOPLE who operate their businesses on Shabbat in defiance of the law maintain that they are serving the secular public, and that they would be unable to make a living if they closed on what they describe as their busiest day of the week.

Stevin at Atlas Furniture estimates he does 30 to 40 percent of his business on Shabbat. He received a first warning last week from ministry inspectors, and says he's very worried. "The last thing I want to do is close on Shabbat," he says. And if he gets an order to appear in court, he's not going to take it lying down.

"If several businesses in Rishpon are written up, we'll probably all go to court together and fight it as a group," he warns. "We're not just going to pay the fine."

Avshalom Efer, owner of the Woodstock antique-furniture store at Moshav Rishpon, says he does more than two-thirds of his business on Shabbat. He's been visited twice by government inspectors this past month, but so far has only received

warnings. "For us, it's a life-or-death matter," he insists. "My business couldn't survive without the weekend business. Antiques are the kind of thing people buy as a couple. Look at the antique shops that have shut down on Ben-Yehuda Street in Tel Aviv because they can't open on Shabbat."

Tel Aviv, in particular, is displaying a feisty opposition to the Labor Ministry's apparent muscle-flexing. Mayor Ronni Milo sent a strongly worded letter Sunday to Labor Minister Eli Yishai, warning that any attempt on the government's part to disrupt the carefully balanced modus vivendi between Tel Aviv's secular and religious communities, specifi-

cally by sending in inspectors to write up kiosks and snack shops operating on Shabbat, will be met with "the harshest response" from his office.

"Our first step will be to issue permission for all stores to operate on Shabbat," he threatened.

Some errant shopowners are taking strength from the mayor's words. Shai Kuglevich, owner of four "Pitzuzia" kiosks in Tel Aviv, invited in Meretz volunteers last Shabbat to run his Ibn Gvirol kiosk and head off government inspectors. His kiosk was not visited, but he's repeating the tactic this Shabbat just in case.

"We're only doing it to make a point," he says. "We can't fight the

entire Labor Ministry on our own." He invites all Tel Aviv kiosk owners to join him in a group opposition, however, "for our own good, and for the good of the secular public."

CAHALON remains nonplussed. Israel isn't the only country with enforced days of rest, he points out. He adds that Shabbat-breakers in this country are engaging in unfair competition with observant shopowners, who remain closed on Shabbat and complain to the Labor Ministry that they suffer financially by doing the right thing.

"What can we do?" he shrugs. "Until the country changes the law, we have to enforce it." He castigates those shopowners who hauled insults at his department's six inspectors last week, all of whom are Druse, mostly students, working part-time for the ministry on Shabbat in lieu of Jewish inspectors.

"People shouted the worst things, calling them 'Druse animals,'" he says. "The mayor of Ramat Gan shouted, 'Don't be Shabbat goyim.' Jews can be the worst antisemites when it comes to their wallets. We'll arrest people who cross the line with our workers."

If the ministry continues enforcing Shabbat labor laws, shopowners counter, they won't have an easy job. "We are definitely going to fight it," vows Auto Depot general manager Uzi Katz, whose Bifu Junction branch operates on Shabbat. "It's a brutal intervention upon our freedom as businesspeople, and our right as individuals to decide how to spend our Shabbat. We will take it as far as necessary in order to preserve the so-called status quo."

Amnon Ben-Ezri, who has worked five years at Woodstock, warns that if the present government enforces Shabbat closures, it will fall. "Our wives and children will march on the Knesset to demand unemployment compensation when we're forced out of business," he predicts. "I've voted Likud my entire life, and this has turned me into a Meretz activist."

## Pulling rank in the city that's never been safer

### As the TA police chief moves on to become deputy police commissioner, he leaves behind a city with less crime and a compassionate legacy, Raine Marcus writes

**O**UTGOING Tel Aviv police chief Commander Gabi Last has no real regrets or frustrations about his four-year term in the city. No, not every murder or major crime was solved, but still, says Last, Tel Aviv is a safe city, especially for tourists; and he is not leaving behind any extraordinary criminal phenomena - for his successor, scheduled to replace him this Sunday.

"There are no 'no-go' areas in Tel Aviv," he says leaning back in his chair in his almost empty office, just days before he takes on his new post as deputy police commissioner - a new position created by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani - under Inspector-General Assaf

Hefetz. "The crime rate has decreased in the city and widespread phenomena like bag snatching, bank robberies, or the muggings of old people, have all been dealt with. Where else in the world can tourists wander around at night safely? The hotel area on Hayarkon Street is also safe."

His frustrations, though, do lie with the court system.

"It is frustrating and annoying that we arrest recidivist car thieves, for example, and judges release them. In this new liberal-

ized era we also have problems with courts remanding those indicted until the end of proceedings. Someone caught with seven kilograms of marijuana, obviously not for personal use, was released on bail recently."

Crime, he added, has not disappeared, and will not vanish, but, it is now controlled.

Last's office has only a few remaining trophies still to be packed and transferred to his new office in Jerusalem. During his four years as commander of the

city that never sleeps, his office was adorned with original art works, most by Israeli artists, books, ornaments, and small gifts from visiting foreign delegations. He hosted foreign police delegations, the FBI, ambassadors and others. Visitors were always welcomed warmly, not as a public relations exercise, says Last, but as a genuine gesture to show that police chiefs are approachable human beings, whatever their rank.

Tel Aviv is considered Israel's most problematic city because of its high population of residents, visitors, and those entering the

city daily to work. "Some 2.2 million people are in Tel Aviv daily, either living or working here," he says. "We discovered that 60 percent of criminals are in fact from outside the city." Seventy percent of the country's vehicles enter and leave Tel Aviv daily, says Last. The anticipated number of criminal files opened by the end of the year is 78,000 - "practically the lowest in the last decade."

While Jerusalem police mainly deal with political events including demonstrations and internal security, Tel Aviv police have to combat a whole spectrum of crime - petty and major offenses, traffic control, crowd control at large events such as soccer matches and concerts, the increasing problem of illegal foreign workers. All this, as well as terror attacks.

Underworld assassinations. (Continued on Page 10)

**The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**  
The Center for Human Rights  
The Israel Democracy Institute  
**FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG**  
**FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND INCITEMENT AGAINST DEMOCRACY**  
15-17 DECEMBER 1996  
THE HYATT REGENCY HOTEL  
MOUNT SCOPUS, JERUSALEM  
15 December 1996  
19:30 - 22:30 Session 1: Boundaries of Freedom of Speech Chair  
David Kretzmer - Hebrew University Faculty of Law  
Opening Remarks  
Winfried Veit - Friedrich Ebert Stiftung  
Keynote Address  
Anthony Lewis - The New York Times  
Speakers  
Fred Lawrence - Boston University School of Law  
Jochen Abr. Frowein - Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg  
Discussions  
Amos Shapira - Tel-Aviv University Faculty of Law  
Raphael Cohen-Almagor - Haifa University Department of Communication and Faculty of Law  
16 December 1996  
9:00 - 12:30 Session 2: The Threat of Violent Speech Chair  
Edy Kaufman - Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Hebrew University  
Speakers  
Fred Schauer - Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government  
Susanne Baer - Humboldt University, Berlin  
Discussions  
Pnina Lahav - Boston University School of Law  
Yaron Ezzabi - Hebrew University Department of Political Science and Israel Democracy Institute  
Zeev Segal - Tel-Aviv University School of Public Policy  
14:00 - 17:30 Session 3: Law of Incitement Chair  
Yaffa Zilbershatz - Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Law  
Speakers  
Larry Alexander - University of San Diego School of Law  
Albin Eser - Max Planck Institute, Freiburg  
Discussions  
Miri Gur-Arie - Hebrew University Faculty of Law  
Mordechai Kremnitzer - Hebrew University Faculty of Law  
17 December 1996  
9:00 - 12:30 Session 4: Defamation of Public Figures Chair  
Anne Bayefsky - York University, Toronto  
Speakers  
George Fletcher - Columbia University School of Law  
Otto Lagodny - University of Dresden Faculty of Law  
Discussions  
Anthony Lewis - The New York Times  
Ruth Gavison - Hebrew University Faculty of Law  
14:00 - 17:30 Session 5: Institutional Perspectives Chair  
Arik Carmon - Israel Democracy Institute  
Speakers  
Dieter Oberdorfer - Arnold Bergstrasser Institut, Freiburg  
Alon Harel - Hebrew University Faculty of Law  
Discussions  
John Gardner - King's College School of Law, London  
Herta Däubler-Gmelin - Vice-Chairperson, SPD, Germany  
Shimon Shetreet - Hebrew University Faculty of Law  
The conference will be conducted in English.  
With special thanks to the Ford Foundation and the Division for Public Relations of the Hebrew University for their support.  
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59 Catering/Gourmet Cooking	94 Fitness & Nutrition
23 Medical Office Assistant	85 Drafting
51 Fashion Merchandising	39 Medical Transcriptionist
33 Motorcycle Repair	72 Appliance Repair
52 Surveying & Mapping	41 Journalism/Short Story Writing
22 Wildlife/Forestry Conservation	40 Photography
47 Animal Care Specialist	70 Computer-Assisted Small Business Mgmt.
15 Home Inspector	79 Electronics Technician
24 Dental Office Assistant	25 Gun Pro
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**Thursday Jan. 9 THE GALILEE - PEOPLE AND PLACES**  
Jews, Arabs, Christians, Druse, Beduin, Circassians - living together in a spectacular Mediterranean landscape makes the Galilee the interesting place it is. Our tour will take us to Kaulkab, Haratit, Yodfat, Shorashim, Sakamin and Eshbar - a mosaic of human scenery living in an ideal setting. We'll meet the people and see the sites. NIS 185 (including lunch)  
Tour guide: Mark Rosenstein

**Thursday Jan. 23 TU BISHVAT, MAN AND EARTH**  
On this special day, we'll visit the places and people who continue the traditions of centuries with the use of medicinal herbs, plants, berries, trees and even learn from the animals in the region. We'll be in the Galilee and we'll meet the experts in the Druse village of Yerka, Yanuch and Deir Hana with its 2,400 year old olive trees. We'll hear from Hanzi Avaida and Wahid Maadi and come away a lot wiser.  
NIS 190 (including lunch)  
Tour guide: Yuval Avidor

**Tuesday Feb. 11 RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN**  
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The Gustav Heinemann Institute
of Middle Eastern Studies
The Bertha Von Suttner Research Program

Modern Syria (19th-20th Centuries): Social, Economic and Political Issues

Tuesday-Wednesday, December 17-18 1996
Observation Gallery, 30th Floor, Eshkol Tower
University of Haifa

Tuesday, December 17

8:45 Greetings:

Prof. Aharon Ben-Zeev, Dean of Research, University of Haifa
Dr. Karlheinz Koppe, The Bertha Von Suttner Foundation
Dr. Ibrahim Geries, Head of the Jewish-Arab Center, University of Haifa

Opening Remarks:
Prof. Joseph Ginat, Former Head of the Jewish-Arab Center, University of Haifa

I. Syria in the 19th Century

2:00 Session I: Internal Social and Political Issues
Chairperson: Dr. Joseph Nevo, University of Haifa

Prof. Thomas Philipp, Institute of Political Science and Modern Middle Eastern Studies, Friedrich Alexander University, Germany

Shifting Centers of Political and Economic Power on the Syrian Coast during the 19th Century

Dr. Butrus Abu-Maneh, University of Haifa

The "Province of Syria" Under the Governorship of Mohammed Rashid Pasha: 1866-1871

Dr. Yoram Shalit, The Jewish-Arab Center

Europeans in Damascus and Aleppo at the End of the 18th Century and the Beginning of the 19th Century

Dr. Tufat Buzpinar, Center for Islamic Studies, Turkish Religious Foundation, Turkey

The Question of Citizenship of the Algerian Immigrants in Syria in the 19th Century

Izchak Weismann, University of Haifa

Sufi Tradition and the Emergence of Salafiyya in Hamidian Damascus

II. Syria in the 20th Century

11:30 Session II: Internal Issues in Syria-Elites and Intellectuals
Chairperson: Dr. Amalia Levanoni, University of Haifa

Prof. Amatzia Baran, University of Haifa

Syrian Intellectuals and Democracy

Dr. Rana Kabani (not attending the conference; television, video-tape interview from London by Ms. Nomi Levitsky\*)

Journalist, Yedioth Ahronoth

Dr. Gunther Lohmeyer, Free University of Berlin, Germany

Opposition in Syria

Dr. Eyal Ziser, Tel-Aviv University

Syria: The Struggle for Power

Prof. Mohammed Muslih, Long Island University, U.S.A

Syria's Foreign Policy as it is Discussed in the Political Writings of Syrian Academics and Intellectuals

Mr. Masud Hamdan, University of Haifa

Protest Theatre in Syria After 1967

Dr. Alasdair Drysdale, University of New Hampshire, Durham, U.S.A. commentator

15:00 Session III: Panel of Ambassadors
Chairperson: Prof. Joseph Ginat

Opening: M.K. Shimon Peres

Ambassador Tahseen Basheer, Former head of President Saadat's Office, Egypt

Dr. Mohamed Bassiouny, The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Israel (Will participate only)

Mr. Ahmed Ould Teguedi, Head of Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Mr. Miguel Anhael Moradinos, Special Delegate of Europe in the Middle East

Representative of the U.S.A Embassy to Israel

Wednesday, December 18

9:00 Session I: Trends in Social and Economic Development
Chairperson: Prof. Gad Gilbar, University of Haifa

Dr. Moshe Shemesh, Ben Gurion University

Syria: The Struggle Over Water With Israel 1959-1967 Between Confrontation and Frustration

Dr. Moshe Efrat, College of Management, Tel Aviv

Syria: Economic Development, Achievements, Problems and Prospects (1980-94)

Dr. M. Zubair Diab, Syrian Intellectual, London, U.K. (not attending the conference; television video tape interview from London)

Dr. Uti Kupferschmidt, University of Haifa

Radical Islam in Syria

Dr. Onn Winckler, University of Haifa

Demographic Changes in Syria Under the Ba'ath Regime

Prof. Volker Perthes, SWP, Research Institute for Security and International Politics, Germany

Commentator

11:30 Session II: Nation-State and Ethnopolitics
Chairperson: Dr. Abraham Brichs, Head, Political Science Dept., University of Haifa

Zeidan Atshi, Ministry of Education

The Druze (in Syria, Lebanon and Israel) and their Moral Logic Concerning a Nation-State

Dr. Birgit Schabler, Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen, Germany

Conflict and Integration: "The Case of Syria's Druzes"

Prof. David Kushner, University of Haifa

Turkey-Syria Relations

Dr. Kais Firro, University of Haifa

The Attitude of the Alawi Elites Towards Islam and Nationalism During the Mandatory Period

Dr. Meir Zamir, Ben Gurion University

Syria's Political and Territorial Claims in Lebanon: 1936-1939

14:30 Session III: Syria and the Middle East Peace Process
Chairperson: Dr. Karlheinz Koppe, The Bertha Von Suttner Foundation

Prof. Moshe Maoz, The Hebrew University

Syria and Israel: Probing for Peace

Dr. Muhammad MalAla, Dr. Naser Tahboub, Amman, Jordan

Syrian Position Regarding the Peace Process

Prof. Daniel Pipes, Middle East Quarterly Pennsylvania, U.S.A

Haifa al-Asad's Double Game

Prof. Zeev Maoz, Tel-Aviv University

Strategic Interactions Between Syria and Israel

Gen. A.M. Agag, Egypt

Syrian Israeli Peace Process in Egyptian Eyes

Mr. Patrick Seale (not attending the conference; television video tape interview from London, by Ms. Nomi Levitsky\*)

16:30 CLOSING REMARKS

Chairperson: Prof. Gabriel Ben Dor, University of Haifa

Participants only

The Public is invited

\* Special Thanks To Ms. Nomi Levitsky and the Editorial Board of Yedioth Ahronoth for their help.

Daring missions deep down under

The golden years of Israel's elite underwater battalion may be over, Steve Rodan writes.

MATAN Poliboda and Yair Engel had a dream. While some of their friends sought to fly supersonic warplanes, they aimed to be denizens of the deep: members of an elite group of Navy frogmen that carried out daring missions.

The dream ended in the murky waters of the Haifa Bay on December 5, when the bodies of both men were found amid the sunken wreckage - still tied together by a rope that was to ensure that they wouldn't lose each other.

For IDF commanders, their deaths highlighted the latest in a series of troubling accidents in Shayetet 13, the elite underwater commando battalion that has seen better days. In the last five years, four members of the unit have been killed by accidents and many others have been injured. Moreover, after years of being regarded as one of the top units in the military, the navy commandos have been struggling in the 1990s to maintain their prestigious position as those who participate in the most important missions against Israel's enemies.

It's a subject that most Shayetet veterans don't want to talk about in public. "What's the use? Will it bring more volunteers to the unit?" asks Dov Bar, a Shayetet commander in the 1970s.

The early years of Shayetet were the stuff of legends. The unit was formed in the 1950s, modeled after the famed Italian naval commandos who operated during World War II. Yo'hai Bin-Nun was its flamboyant commander and the atmosphere resembled that of the Palmach underground.

But the Shayetet reflected the rest of the navy, a small force where discipline was lax and professionalism was low.

The low point was the 1967 Six Day War. Then, the Navy won approval for five attacks on enemy ports. It was an ambitious mission - way beyond the capacity of the service. All of the missions failed.

"The Navy had the resources to carry out the operations," Zev Almog, former Navy commander, says. "Unfortunately, the Navy failed and disappointed."

After the 1967 war, Almog took

over Shayetet and the unit became professional. Unlike his predecessors, Almog went on missions. He drilled the importance of constant training into his men. He integrated the commando force with the rest of the Navy fleet, rather than maintain it as merely a unit of frogmen on call.

The result was dramatic. In the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the Navy, this time with a less ambitious plan, struck four times at Egyptian ports and overwhelmed Arab forces considerably larger than its own.

Simply put, Shayetet and the Navy emerged as the heroes of that war.

"The benefit of the Six Day War was that the Navy learned its lesson," Almog recalls.

By 1968, Almog had convinced the IDF chief of staff to use Shayetet as an amphibious commando force far from Israel's shores.

The raid on Egypt's Green Island in 1969 was the best example, where Shayetet surprised and overpowered an Egyptian army force on the strategic Red Sea island, thought to have contained surface-to-air missiles that could threaten Israeli warplanes.

The 1970s and early 1980s were the golden period of the Shayetet. Almog's Shayetet was comprised of members of kibbutzim, most of them children of Holocaust survivors. They underwent a course of nearly two years that made them the best frogmen in the world. Then, they learned other aspects of the Navy, such as commanding patrol and missile boats. Between 1969 and 1971, four members of the unit died in exercises and many more were injured, but at the time the IDF censored the media from releasing the information.

In addition, the unit instituted a system of promotion for the best and brightest. Almog introduced modern doctrine and equipment for his men. The model was the Air Force, and the system that was eventually adopted by the rest of the Navy.

"A frogman is like a pilot," says [Res.] Lt. Col. David Schick, former deputy commander of Shayetet. "They are very special and demand special qualities that only a psychiatrist can analyze." Schick characterized the Shayetet commando of the 1970s. He joined the unit in 1971 and within two years was participating in missions in Egypt and other Arab countries.

The unit's goal was to press for raids wherever there was danger. Commandos argued that Shayetet can do what no other unit can - slip into the sea many kilometers from the coast and then emerge on land and take the enemy by surprise. For this, they would need neither air or ground support nor a large number of fighters.

"They were always better than the Sayeret Matkal [General Reconnaissance Unit]," Meir Pa'il, a military historian, says.

The campaign to include the Shayetet caused a perpetual tug-of-war between its gung-ho commanders and the IDF general staff and the defense minister. During the 1973 war, defense minister Moshe Dayan called off a Shayetet raid into Syria as unit frogmen were in the Mediterranean because of fear the operation would fail.

But in the mid-1970s, the Shayetet disproved the doubters in the military when they sunk a ship with weapons bound for Lebanon, a country that was turning into a PLO stronghold. The unit's commander was Gadi Sheffi, one of the most flamboyant figures in the Navy.

During the Lebanon war, the Shayetet participated in numerous commando raids, alongside such units as the General Reconnaissance Unit. They surprised PLO fighters and their Arab allies within Lebanon. During one raid, the Shayetet killed 12 enemy troops.

BUT BY the early 1980s, the nature of the Shayetet commando was beginning to change. The turning point came as early as 1978 when then-Shayetet commander

Col. Hanina Amishav was fired by then-COS Lt. Gen. Rafael Eitan because of a training accident in which Capt. Oded Elias was killed off the Sinai coast. The dismissal of the charismatic Amishav, the first ever of a commander because of a training accident, stunned the navy commandos, who threatened to quit en masse. Years later, Eitan, who only five months earlier fired the previous Shayetet commander, Sheffi, acknowledged he had acted in haste.

Amishav's successor was Ami Ayalon, who later became Navy commander and now is head of the General Security Services. From the start, Shayetet veterans say, Ayalon was the odd man out. Until Ayalon, tradition demanded that either the Shayetet commander or his deputy be a veteran frogman. That changed.

"It was a good idea in principle," a Shayetet veteran, who did not want to be identified, recalls.

By the late 1980s, after Ayalon left the Shayetet, the unit became embroiled in a power struggle. Ayalon was regarded as a careerist, with the backing of Almog, and the daring commandos of the 1970s were soon placed on the sidelines.

Moreover, the unit was inundated by a new type of recruit. He was no longer a kibbutznik but a city slicker who graduated from a navy academy. They viewed the Shayetet the way others dreamed of the Air Force - as a personal challenge rather than as a national mission. (Only 3 percent of applicants are accepted into the unit.)

At the same time, the Shayetet was becoming more bloated in personnel and less influential with the IDF general staff. From about 1988, military sources say, the Navy was redirecting its energies from elite units such as the Shayetet to turning the service into a modern fighting force. Commandos no longer lobbied the chief of staff to participate in operations but sought to acquire missile boats and submarines. At the same time, then-Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron, under orders

from his political superiors, drastically decreased the number of special operations.

The result, military sources say, is that the Shayetet has not been called to participate in special forces operations, particularly in Lebanon. Shayetet veterans say the unit, which is not under the direct command of the general staff, has stopped trying to fight for its place in the array of IDF special forces - at a time when the Arabs are developing their navies and commando forces.

"In the 1970s and 1980s, we were always pushing the chief of staff to involve us in operations," a former Shayetet veteran recalls.

"At a certain point, two things happened. First, the army began playing it safe and the Shayetet was the first to be out. The second was that the Shayetet commanders didn't want to rock the boat and their careers."

Pa'il, the military historian and former IDF commander, agrees that in the campaign in south Lebanon the Shayetet has been largely replaced by ground troops, he says. "If other special units the Shayetet finds it difficult to stay in shape without participating in prestigious operations."

"You need a commander to lead the Shayetet because in times of peace or calm they don't do much," he says.

Today, the Shayetet remains a busy unit, although its operations are not made public. The exercise in which Poliboda and Engel, both first sergeants, were killed, was regarded as routine. They were to swim two lengths of 650 meters behind a breaker in Haifa Bay. They were attached by a 1.5-meter rope so that they would not lose each other and could come to the other's aid.

An inquiry committee appointed by OC Navy Adm. Alex Tal is expected to return with conclusions within the next few days.

Regardless of what the committee says, Schick agrees that the Shayetet needs a face-lift and a new sense of purpose. "They're using the navy commandos but not sufficiently. I would say that they are not being exploited in an efficient way by either the general staff or the army."

SAFER

(Continued from Page 9) international narcotics trafficking from Europe and South America. Judaica thefts from Hungary, domestic violence, traffic accidents, rioting and violent political demonstrations, the rise and subsequent demise of casinos, brothels, fraud, and the two-month siege by Uzi Meshulam are amongst other issues dealt with by Last and his force. No easy task. "I was the first to predict, 18 months ago, that the increase of illegal foreign workers in the city would present problems," he says. "Today the phenomenon is being dealt with on a ministerial level."

LAST, a redhead who has been known to have the temperament to match, was most affected by the tragic assassination of Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was murdered right in the center of the city.

The kidnapping of 19-year old Keren Geritler, daughter of a wealthy diamond dealer, by Avi Saban, who was later shot dead by police, also influenced Last, who initially put a total blackout on the incident to avoid endangering lives. Geritler, following intensive detective work which traced the cellular-phone calls made by her and her father, who was also later abducted by Saban, returned home safely.

"Naturally the terror attacks which occurred in the city - including the two bombings on Dizengoff Street - affected me very, very much," said Last. "We policemen are still flesh and blood, and the sights of dismembered bodies strewn in the streets are hard to forget."



TA Mayor Ronni Milo wishes Last well at his going-away party this week at Kfar Hamaccabiah.

mate between the different divisions and with the Internal Security Ministry," he says. "I will deal with strategic planning for the future, decided by the commissioner. I will do anything I can to contribute." Sounds banal, maybe, but Inspector General Hefetz did not say much more.

"Gabi will be in charge of all coordination and planning in all areas," said Hefetz. "If it turns out that he wishes to focus on one specific area which is of special interest to him, then he will do so. The position is mostly headquarters work and he will help to add to changes in the police force in the future, based on my policies," he says.

Last also makes no secret that he aims to run for the position of commissioner following Hefetz's term. "I have never demanded or expected anything," he says. "I have always believed that whoever is chosen for any post is the best for the job."

According to Last, married to Ruti and the father of three, the man in the street and his safety and well-being are the most important factors. "Complaints by civilians about police behavior or failure to deal with complaints to police were always answered within 24 hours," he says. "Even if we could not always deal with them."

Police stations have been gentrified - instead of the old dilapidated waiting rooms for people wishing to file complaints, most stations have been renovated, and Last said he has tried to educate his force to deal with civilians politely and effectively.

The standard of police has also improved, he says. Pointing to a book of newly prepared statistics, he shows that that 93 percent of policemen completed high school while 5 percent have a university degree. Among officers, 34 percent have a university education.

"The old adage that two cops are necessary - one to read and one to write - no longer applies in the force," he says.

Some 28 percent of police in the city are women - the highest percentage in the country.

He argues that since he has been Tel Aviv's top cop, the crime rate has decreased, and is still decreasing. "The only district in the country which can boast a marked decrease in the number of break-ins into cars, car thefts, and burglaries of homes and offices," he says proudly. "There has been a 10 percent decrease in the last year in fatal road accidents."

The number of murders has more or less been steady over the past few years - there were 24 murders in the city, with 70 percent of them solved.

"It still hurts that we cannot solve all murders," he says. "Underworld figures will always fight amongst themselves and in some cases kill each other. With these people we are conducting a battle of wits."

Last concludes by saying he is leaving behind, for his successor, Commander Shlomo Aharoni, a "young force, with vision, and veteran officers with loads of experience under their belts."

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JAYICO 150

Meridor is no Antiochus

TWO years before his current battle against the budget in particular and economic sanity in general, David Levy ostensibly entertained "thoughts" of spearheading a brand-new, "socially oriented" party together with disgruntled Laborites and Shasniks.

The design came as no surprise to old Jerusalem pundits. Unconventional, bold and optimistic experiments in political child-bearing are a time-honored - if commonly ill-fated - tradition among local legislators, and against the backdrop of the Rabin government's refusal to finance longer school days it seemed like a natural choice for the self-declared Robin Hood of Beit She'an.

Such genetic re-engineering was pioneered by David Ben-Gurion, who, having felt betrayed by his old love, Mapai, found in its rebellious grandchildren suitable bedfellows.

The result was a premature baby called Rafi, the reformist party that in 1965 failed to conquer the Knesset and ultimately littered this country with political cripples like Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Navon and Moshe Dayan.

The Right, meanwhile, was no less creative. A long-infertile Menachem Begin concocted from the frozen sperm and ovum of various political has-beens (the Liberals) and would-bees (Ariel Sharon) a multi-headed beast called Likud.

The centrists, for their part, joined together the single-parent families of Yigael Yadin and Amnon Rubinstein to raise a test-tube baby called the Democratic Movement for Change, only to see its dismembered limbs scattered anywhere from Begin's wings to Shulamit Aloni's bosom.

Even the National Religious Party - which, like the biblical Sarah, stunned everyone with a pregnancy well after

ON THE AGENDA AMOTZ ASA-EL

menopause - bore three toddling rascals named Tami, Tehiya and Shas, and one nerd called Meimad.

And so, when Levy was rumored to contemplate the adoption, with Shas leader Aryeh Deri, of a black-market baby to be named something like tax-and-spend - while Ha'im Ramon was playing in the background with Ram, the infant he had bred through a surrogate mother called Histadrut - one could neither belittle the electorality nor disparage the dangers of that theoretical scheme.

But there was the catch. Levy is no Ben-Gurion, Begin, Yadin, or even Ramon.

Unlike them, he ultimately lacked the guts one must possess to abandon a cozy political home and, bare-chested, face the whistling winds, deafening thunders and glistening lightnings that always await the lonely long-distance runner.

When push came to shove - i.e. as polls indicated his independent bid would result in little more than a parliamentary anecdote - Levy duly embraced his old personal nemesis and social antithesis, the Milton Friedmannite Binyamin Netanyahu.

At that point, Levy lost the moral and political right to pontificate to us on anything. Those of his loyalists who were deluded into expecting a momentous odyssey into political centrism and social emancipation discovered they were mere extras in a show aimed at promoting no cause other than David Levy.

Part and parcel of that show was Levy's posturing as a champion of the economically weak, the very constituency he unceremoniously abandoned to look after himself. In reality, his economics added

UP ON THE AGENDA AMOTZ ASA-EL

up to the pseudo-Keynesianism of a cowardly ignoramus.

The basic premise of this struggle - common to assorted political desperados, from MKs like Shaul Amur who wants to vent his anger after failing to earn a cabinet post, to Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav who was badly beaten in an ill-conceived bid for his party's leadership

four years ago - is that only bloated public spending can help the poor. The thought that the poor might best be helped by bringing them closer to a true market economy apparently doesn't even occur to Levy et al.

Take, for instance, this week's long-overdue decision to de-monopolize local telephone calls.

Phone bills can add up to a sizable portion of a poor family's spending. Competition helps them, since it results in lower rates. Yet, when Bezeq employees threatened to fight the government's intention to make them sweat while the rest of us prosper, Levy, Katsav, Amur and their ilk were simply nowhere to be found.

An economically knowledgeable, morally consistent and politically bold social lobbyist would have confronted the telephone company's powerful union and exposed it as the enemy of the poor. The same was true last year, when the social lobbyists were conspicuously absent from the abortive attempt to de-monopolize the Electric Corporation.

Conveniently, our social lobbyists prefer to leave alone the powerful unions that routinely extort wage earners. Instead, they focus on the studios, polite and boyish-looking Finance Minister Dan

Meridor.

Faced with Meridor's prudent intention to make patients pay a minimal sum when they pay a visit to a doctor, or his plan to slash children's allowances for those who have fewer than four, the social lobby hysterically calls the proposed budget cuts *gezerot*, a term originally used to describe Antiochus IV's prohibitions on the practice of Judaism in Judea 2200 years ago.

But Dan Meridor is no Antiochus. If anything, he is a Maccabee who must do with the budget what the Hasmoneans did with that miraculous oil lamp. Namely, he must make it last longer by taming tax gobblers from Left and Right who have developed intimate relations with the national budget and made it swell to more than half our Gross Domestic Product - as opposed to some 35% in west Europe and less than 20% in the US.

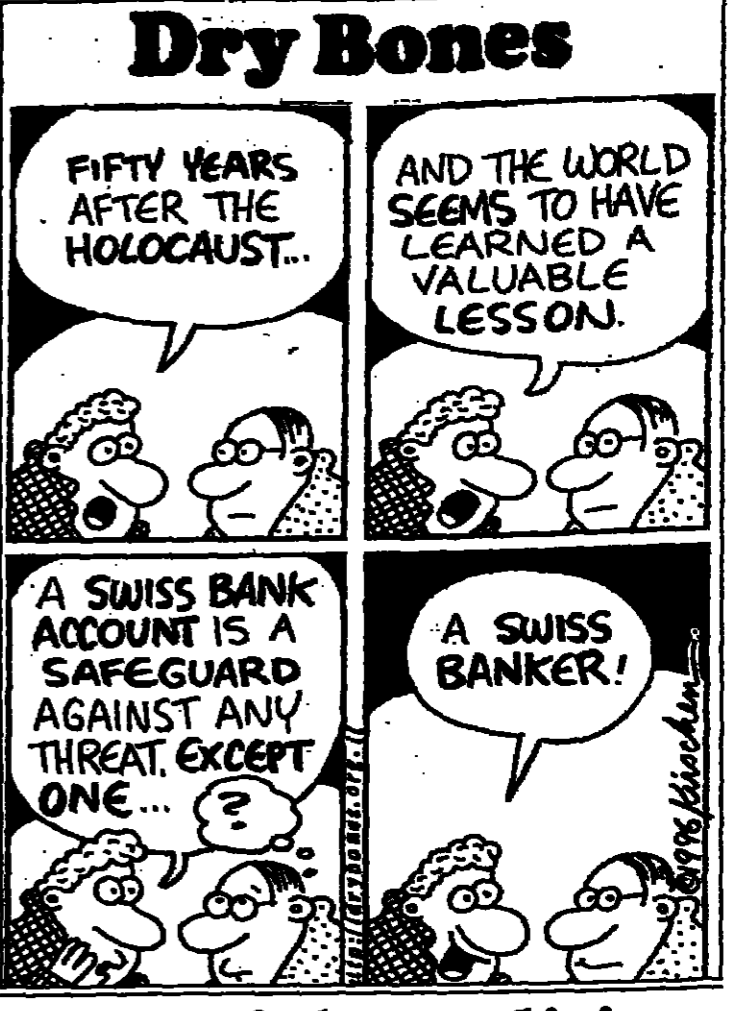
The deficit this year will be nearly 50% higher than the originally planned 2.8% of GDP.

Meridor's cuts - which unlike the propaganda campaign waged against him are aimed not at the poor, but at the middle class, as they should be - can ameliorate some of this deficit deformity.

It is no coincidence that among Katsav, Levy, Amur and the rest of Israel's social lobbyists - all originally humble, but currently extremely well-paid career politicians - one fails to find even one product of the private sector. They all started off as mayors or union leaders and ended up in the Knesset, in order to eye the cabinet.

Netanyahu and Meridor, by contrast, worked in and were philosophically shaped by the private sector.

No wonder, then, that they are far better acquainted with global economic trends, or that they have a better understanding of how money works, and have a respect for the taxpayer's money that Levy et al. could never comprehend.



A Jewish tradition for separating religion and state

SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISIKIN

WE often hear from various secular leaders in Israel about the necessity of separating politics from religion, and even religion from state, as is the situation in most Western democracies. It is fascinating that within the Jewish tradition there is a basis for just such a distinction.

Long before the Israelites reached the Promised Land, a distinction existed between the figures of Moses and Aaron. Moses is the lawgiver; Aaron's role as high priest is specific to the Temple ritual - sacrifices and prayer. The leadership of Moses could not tread upon the domain of Aaron.

These two pillars remained at the heart of Jewish life throughout the ages: Moses was king while Aaron was high priest. It's quite likely that the institution of a priesthood distinct from the executive authority provided an independent moral and ethical voice - protection against a ruler with the gleam of megalomania in his eyes.

The very fact that the king was not privileged to participate in the Temple service helped make him aware of the boundaries of his power. The division between the offices served to protect the integrity of each, creating a system of checks and balances. In time, the prophet stood together with the high priest as a charismatic spokesman of the Divine message, beholden neither to family lineage nor bureaucratic patron.

Hannukka celebrates the victory of the Hasmoneans over the Greek Syrians. According to Maimonides, this victory was so central to the survival of the Jewish religion that even though the Hasmonean dynasty deteriorated over the generations - the members turning into the very Hellenists that their ancestors had fought - they remain among the Jewish greats.

But according to others, such as Nahmanides, it was because the Hasmoneans obliterated the distinction between king and high priest - executive authority and sacerdotal influence - that they were doomed to disappear, and eventually end Jewish national sovereignty.

The Hasmoneans started out as a priestly family, which makes it understandable why Mattathias (founder of the dynasty) and his five sons would be the revolutionary vanguard in toppling the Greek powers who had defiled the Temple. But, in the wake of their military victory, Judah Aristobolus (the grandchild of Judah Maccabee) declared himself king as well as high priest - the beginning of the end.

What strikes us about the introductory paragraph of Maimonides's Laws of Hannukka (Ch.3, 1) is that after describing the period during the Second Temple when the Greeks ruled over Israel, Maimonides effectively praises the Hasmoneans, "for the Hasmonean family of high priests were victorious in which they slew the Greek-Syrians and rescued Israel from their hands and they established a king from their priests, and the kingship was restored to Israel for a period of

more than 200 years - until the destruction of the Second Temple." There is no indication in the Maimonidean description of any judgmental position. If anything, it would seem that the great codifier and philosopher was so appreciative of Jewish national sovereignty that he accepted it in any form it came.

Maimonides's position seems to contradict Jacob's blessing of Judah: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet..." (Gen. 49:10). From this verse it seems that kingship is exclusive to the tribe of Judah.

Maimonides explains, however, that the verse doesn't mean to forbid a king from a tribe other than Judah. After all, Saul was from Benjamin, and God gave him His imprimatur. The verse is merely telling us that once the kingship is given to the tribe of Judah it will be eternal. But on a temporary basis; kings can come from other tribes.

But Nahmanides has a different view. In his opinion, the blessing of kingship which Jacob bestowed upon Judah obviated any possibility that a member of the priestly family would become king. He holds that the Hasmoneans were punished precisely because they merged the two institutions of monarchy and priesthood.

The Talmud itself addresses this issue when it records a comment of Yehudah ben Geddyah to Alexander Yanni, the Hasmonean king who ruled for 27 years, to the effect that the Hasmoneans had no right to arrogate to themselves both pillars of Jewish leadership. (B.T. Kedushin 66a)

How are we to understand the idea of kingship and priesthood in modern terms? It would be beneficial to relate to the king as the chief executive of Jewish life - albeit with a profound appreciation for, and hopefully even knowledge of, Jewish law. Such executive leadership must bear in mind the new conditions of each generation, with its scientific, military, psychological and political realities, and on that basis come to relevant decisions. For this reason, the Bible insists that difficult issues be decided by the "judge who shall be in those days" (Deut. 17:8-11).

The high priest has an altogether different function. His task is to link the Jewish present to the Jewish past, to bring the weight of Jewish tradition and Jewish morality to bear on Jewish government. The rabbinic-ethical voice must be perceived as the eternal word of God, free of any political blandishments. In this sense, the chief rabbi of Israel must remain independent, not in any way beholden to prime minister or Knesset.

On Hannukka we light eight distinct lights rather than increasing one flame eightfold. The essence of the Jewish people is the distinct light of each. Each one must burn distinctly; each candle adding its own distinct contribution to the menorah which is Israel.

GIVE SOLDIERS LIFTS! Shabbat Shalom

Thomas Friedman's metaphor

VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

IF I suggested that it is inappropriate for the American Jewish Congress to invite Louis Farrakhan to be the keynote speaker at its annual convention, would you accuse me of seeking to muzzle free speech? If I also told the American Jewish Committee that Jews for Jesus' "rabbi" Moshe Rosen was an unfortunate choice to be keynote speaker at its conference on "Whither American Jewry?" would you accuse me of "keeping a blacklist of those who are forbidden to address American Jewish audiences?"

That is precisely the accusation the New York Times's veteran, inveterate Israel-basher Thomas L. Friedman, leveled against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's adviser, David Bar-Ilan. The alleged muzzling consists in suggesting, in view of Friedman's "lack of consideration for Israel's security needs, it is inappropriate for an organization that considers itself Zionist to give him a platform" (New York Forward, November 29; Yediot Aharonot, December 4; and The Jerusalem Post, December 5 and 6).

The organization in question is the Anti-Defamation League, who invited Friedman to address its Los Angeles regional chapter's annual dinner-dance this past Sunday. What in Friedman's record disqualifies him as a keynote speaker or any kind of featured speaker at a meeting of Jews who are not anti-Zionist?

In his best-selling autobiographical book From Beirut to Jerusalem, Friedman claims he believed in Israel until, as a journalist in Lebanon in 1982, during "Operation Peace for Galilee," he "experienced something of a personal crisis... The Israel I met on the outskirts of Beirut was not the heroic Israel I had been taught to identify with."

In fact, as a student at Brandeis University, when even he conceded that the PLO was a terrorist gang, he was an outspoken supporter of the "Palestinian" Arab cause. As a member of the steering committee of the "Middle East Peace Group," he co-signed an "open letter" in the November 12, 1974, issue of The Brandeis Justice, denouncing the American Jewish community for opposing Yasser Arafat's pistol-packing appearance at the United Nations, scheduled for the next day, and declaring the issue of "Palestinian self-determination" to be "one of the central issues blocking peace in the Middle East."

He does not mention this in his autobiography. He has accused Israel of "demonizing" the Arabs of Eretz Yisrael (the Post, March 20, 1985).

In his view, "Israelis are getting a bad press because they deserve it" (the Post, March 1, 1988).

In his book he describes Israel as "Yad Vashem with an air force."

These are just a few examples of where Friedman's sympathies lie.

On the other hand, when his car was stoned by Arab boys in Jerusalem during the intifada, he ejaculated: "If I had a gun I would have killed them all" (the Post, April 19, 1991).

Yet Abraham Foxman, ADL national director, told the Forward he was "proud" to host Friedman, whom he described as "a responsible, knowledgeable and incisive commentator on the [Middle East] whose opinions are always expressed within the context of support for the State of Israel."

By the way, how do you "muzzle" a man whose column appears in some 500 American newspapers?

EIGHT AND a half years ago Friedman, then the Times's Jerusalem bureau chief, showed me directly his approach to civil discourse.

On June 29, 1988, in a talk at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, he metaphorized the "Palestine problem" as follows: The Israeli Jews are like a man who enters a New York subway car and grabs the last available seat. A little blind old lady enters the car and stands in front of him. He buries his face in The Daily News. A fracas ensues in which other passengers get shoved off their seats.

The next day I wrote him a "metaphorical" letter: "As it happens," I wrote, "I was in that subway car. That man who 'grabbed' the 'last seat' is my brother, and that was the last seat because most of the passengers sprawled in their seats and some had even put their coats and packages on seats beside them, refusing to move over or put their effects in their laps to make room for my brother and others. And my brother barely managed to squeeze into that space in the far corner."

"When the blind lady boarded the car through the center door, the seats around the door happened to be occupied by some of her children and nephews and nieces. These not only did not make room for her, but they even shoved her towards the end of the car where my brother was sitting, and planted her right in front of him, even planting the tip of her cane on his toe."

"As for burying his face in The Daily News - someone shoved the paper in his face just as he was about to try to shift to make room for her. I guess that's the point where you boarded the car, which is why you thought my brother had buried his face in the newspaper. It was in the course of the fracas that followed, with my brother

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trying to defend himself against the blind little old lady's children and nephews and nieces, that a few of those closest to him got shoved off their seats.

Friedman, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, replied in a letter dated July 6: "Your letter to me was so stupid that I don't know why I should bother responding... You... should have focused on something else I said: that Arabs and Israelis remind me of people in a hospital who meet together each day in the lobby and each one can only talk about his own... pain. That is clearly you."

"You are so obsessed with your own pain that you cannot admit any other voice. Israel... is in its present predicament precisely because of people such as yourself... Pardon me for suggesting a way in which Israel might unilaterally improve its security and its chances for peace..."

NEWSPAPER headlines are supposed to reflect, at least hint at, the contents of the story underneath. But the headline writer at London's daily Independent (November 21) apparently got carried away by his anti-Israel bias in handling a story by their Jerusalem correspondent, Patrick Cockburn, on the incident of the video showing two Border Police men humiliating Arab workers.

The headline is accurate: "Vision of brutality leaves Israel in shock." But contrary to the facts, reported by Cockburn, the headline said: "Jerusalem violence: Amateur video of soldiers beating two men to death condemned as 'dehumanization of Palestinians.'"

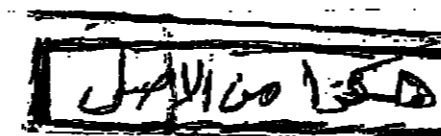
No one was beaten to death in that incident. The caption under the accompanying photo also got it wrong: "Mass reaction: Supporters of the Islamic group, Hamas, march in Nablus yesterday in honor of the killed Palestinians and the amateur video of the attack by two Israeli soldiers."

Keep the children smiling

- Mueller - Hanni. NIS 200 in beloved memory of my parents - Dr. Rina Neher, J'im. Naomi and Shlomo Erel, Bat Yam. NIS 180 in honor of Judith and Ellis Wymick's 40th wedding anniversary - Norma and Israel Stachurs. NIS 150 Anon., Petah Tikva. With best wishes for the success of the fund - Nina Bellows, J'im. Charlotte Lapiin, Newyork. NIS 120 Mr. and Mrs. Heymann, J'im. A friend, J'im. NIS 110 Mr. and Mrs. Shmuel Fisher, J'im. NIS 100 Anon., Rehovot. Clara and Felix Laguardo, J'im. Pauline and Maurice Gaba, J'im. Mr. and Mrs. M. Davidowitz, J'im. In memory of my dear husband, Leo Michael - Lisel Weiss, Ramat Gan. NIS 55 With loving good wishes for the success of these necessary funds that bring some happiness to those who receive them. Thank you for your efforts. Beverlee - Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Cohen, J'im. NIS 50 Anon., J'im. Mascha Flanner, J'im. Sheila Spitz, J'im. Mr. and Mrs. M. Kretzmer, J'im. Sentez Ltd., Kfar Snamyah. R. Horvyczy, J'im. Yeta Weg, J'im. Claire Reibel, J'im. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sacks, J'im. Mr. and Mrs. Sylvia Sternberg, J'im. In honor of the 90th birthday of Rabbi Toporoff - Rhoda, Ramat Gan. NIS 40 Mr. and Mrs. 'aleh Adamin. NIS 30 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Marmor, J'im. NIS 20 Miriam Stein, J'im. \$300 in loving memory of Alice Kana of London. \$143 Chavna Moshe, Spring Valley, N.Y. David and Sabina Schoenbrun, Morris and Martha Heznan, Gilbert and Lillian Zion, Joel and Ruth Elcid, Samuel and Belle Bradin, Herman and Marilyn Friedmann, Herzman and Dorothy Bergman. \$135 Chavurah Tzedakah, Norwalk, CT. \$100 Mack Kroger, Middletown, OH. In memory of Carol's beloved husband, Rabbi Meivis Glatt and my dear parents, Leo and Edna Frank - Rivkah Frank. \$60 On the yahrzeit of my father, Jacob Rotstein - Aura and Myer Rothstein, Tel Aviv. NIS 500 Hanna Golt for Edan, Amit and Alon - Love, GBa and GPa. \$30 Benzard Smith, J'im. \$25 Jay Rubenstein, Campbell, CA. In honor of our family in Shilo - Gerald and Gertrude Myers, Skokie. \$20 In sincere gratitude to Rabbi Rafael Grossman and Stanley and Blanche Engleberg of Memphis, TN, and all the others there who made me feel loved and welcome at Baron Hirsch Congregation - Mae Carol Brown, Booneville, MS. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Herzog, J'im. \$18 Guillelle Ousefky, J'im. On the yahrzeit of our dear friend, Julius (Bubber) Zucker - Mr. and Mrs. Irving Sosenshine, Charleston SC. In loving memory of my father, Joseph Clyde, on his 7th yahrzeit - Regina, Mary, Adam, Schachar, Katie Cohen, Baltimore, Rabbi Dan and Barbara Kaplan, Canton, MA. \$5 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Childress, Yadlaville, NC. \$1 Anon., West Hempstead, NY. \$22.80 Made out of love for the Jewish People - Fedora and Max Resnik, Buenos Aires. \$w.Kr.600 From me and my sister - Simon Berglund, Javrevoiv, Sweden. \$20 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Herzog, J'im. \$18 Guillelle Ousefky, J'im. In honor of our grandchildren - Rabbi and Mrs. Norman Goldberg, Chicago. Rabbi Dan and Barbara Kaplan, Canton, MA. Tzedakah from the kids at Northbrook Congregation Ezra-Habovon, IL - Dalet Class: Joy Berman, Nicole Fields, Sharon Fish, Rachel Gilman, Steven Kahn, Seth Kopolman, Cheryl Melzer, Pamela Newham, David Pesky. Bet Class: Jennifer Levin, Bryce Lindon, Jeffrey Nashan, Karli Salinger, Aaron Shulley. \$10 Jeff, Kathryn and Rosia Lundgren, Warrensburg, MO. \$5 Betty Roitscher, Adams. \$w.Kr.500 From me and my sister - Simon Berglund, Sweden. \$A.Rand \$0 Rachel Rapoport, South Africa. New Donations NIS 16,631 \$1,354 Progress Totals NIS 173,635 \$38,092 WELCOME HOME FUND NIS 150 A good friend, J'im. NIS 120 Mr. and Mrs. Heymann, J'im. NIS 110 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Fisher, J'im. NIS 100 Anon., Petah Tikva. Nina Bellows, J'im. NIS 55 Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Cohen, J'im. NIS 50 Clara and Felix Laguardo, J'im. Mascha Flanner, J'im. Sentez Ltd., Kfar Snamyah. Sheila Spitz, J'im. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sacks, J'im. Mr. and Mrs. Sylvia Sternberg, J'im. NIS 30 Claire Reibel, J'im. \$150 In loving memory of Alice Kana of London. \$100 Arthur Segal, Springville, AL. \$80 Chavurah Tzedakah, Norwalk, Ct. \$50 Hanna Golt for Edan, Amit and Alon - Love, GBa and GPa. \$20 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Herzog, J'im. New Donations NIS 955 \$410 Progress Totals NIS 46,723 \$18,026

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 250 in memory of Margaret Phillip, who died last year - Philipp Family, J'im. In memory of my beloved husband, Heinz-Joseph, and his parents, Gertrud and Michael - B. Kohn. NIS 225 In loving memory of Greta Korn de Mueller and Ernst (Mull)



# From worse to verse

**H**E didn't know of many places in the world where the finance minister, in the midst of a budgetary crisis, would make himself available to read a poem, said Israel Radio's Dr. Shmuel Huppert, who was the MC this week at a poetry-reading marathon to mark the centenary of the birth of prophetic poet, politician and Israel Prize literature laureate Uri Zvi Greenberg. Not only did Dan Meridor join scores of other Greenberg admirers, who gathered at the Hebrew University's Belgium House for the occasion, but he stayed around for a third of the six-hour event to listen to other readers who included such well-known literary personalities as Aliza Greenberg, Tur Malka, Aharon Megged, Moshe Shamir, Ya'acov Orland, Natan Yonatan and Anita Shapira.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor leader Shimon Peres, both of whom were unable to attend, videotaped their contributions, whereas Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer, whose ministry co-hosted the event, made neither a personal nor a video appearance even though he was listed on the program.

**WHEN EGYPTIAN** ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny called Zvi Mazel, Israel's ambassador-designate to Egypt, to inform him that he had a green light to Cairo, he also insisted on hosting a farewell party for him. With only two weeks in which to sandwich in the celebration of his 33rd wedding anniversary, brush up on his Arabic, clear up his desk at the Foreign Ministry and take his

leave of relatives and friends, Mazel was hard pressed. But on Wednesday, he managed to make it from Jerusalem to Herzliya Pituah, where Bassiouny presided solo over the luncheon because his wife Nagwa is currently in India.

Moshe Sasson, who was Israel's second ambassador to Egypt, former Foreign Ministry director general Dave Kimche, MK Sallah Tariff and Delta president Dov Lautman, who has set up a manufacturing plant in Egypt, were amongst those present. US ambassador Martin Indyk, who arrived late, told Mazel that Ned Walker, his opposite number in Cairo, was eagerly awaiting Mazel's arrival and would work closely with him.

Responding to Bassiouny's wish that his mission will be one of "peace and friendship," Mazel noted that for him his return to Egypt was not just political but personal. He and his wife Michelle and their three children spent nearly four years in Egypt as members of the first Israeli diplomatic mission there.

**METHINKS THOU** dost protest too much, the Bard would have told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had he been present to hear his address at the opening of the Empire of the Sultans exhibition at the Israel Museum. Punctuating his speech with claims that he did not want to confuse politics with art, Netanyahu went on to make a number of political statements to the effect that Israel has no quarrel with Islam, but only friendship and respect; and that none of the problems between Israel and her neighbors are insoluble.

GRAPEVINE  
GREER FAY CASHMAN



Russian Ambassador Bovin was all decked out when he first presented credentials here in 1991. (Itzhak Harnet)

**WHAT WAS** more interesting, however, was a little scenario played out between Netanyahu, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and billionaire collector and philanthropist David Khalili, through whose generosity the exhibition was made possible. In naming Khalili a Trustee of the City of Jerusalem, Olmert termed him "a great benefactor of the City of Jerusalem," but said that at Khalili's request, he would not detail the extent of his largesse. In the course of his address, he also made pointed remarks about why the government should support the Israel Museum, whereupon Netanyahu quipped "you have to

say this to me in a budget week?" "When else but in a budget week?" retorted Olmert.

At the close of the ceremony, Netanyahu again approached the microphone to announce an anonymous \$40 million bequest to the museum for which the government is paying the VAT. Khalili may not be that anonymous donor, but the timing of the announcement in tandem with his being conferred with Jerusalem's highest honor was just a little too coincidental.

**SOME CONCEPTS** die hard. JB Jewellers general manager Gabi Peleg, at the opening of the company's Fabergé exhibition, welcomed Dr. Anatoly L. Yurkov and referred to him as the representative of the embassy of the Soviet Union. Yurkov, who serves as Second Secretary at the Russian Embassy, was quick to update him. Speaking in excellent Hebrew, Yurkov said, "When you mention Fabergé, it evokes in every Russian soul a nostalgia for times gone by which unfortunately will not return." Nonetheless Yurkov was hopeful that the art and the past glory of Fabergé would return to Russia. Business, after all, is business.

**THE NEWS** that Michael Bogdanov may be Russia's second ambassador to Israel had some people harking back to December 23, 1991, when Alexander Bovin, the first Soviet ambassador to Israel since June 1967, presented his credentials to then president Chaim Herzog. It was one of the rare occasions that the casually clad Bovin wore not only a tie, but the official gold embroidered suit of a Soviet ambassador. His was the final

diplomatic appointment by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. On January 1, 1992, Bovin was no longer a Soviet envoy, but the Russian ambassador. It will be interesting to see whether his successor will also arrive in a gold-braided suit.

"EVERY ACTION, even a fraction, makes a difference," sang David Broza to an enthusiastic Israeli audience. For UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador for the Performing Arts and his wife Ruth, their appearance at the UNICEF event at the Tel Aviv Sheraton was a combination of pride and nostalgia. Broza, the singing troubadour, who a year ago wrote the official UNICEF 50th anniversary song *Together*, performed it in Israel for the first time. The venue was rather significant, since it was at the Sheraton that he met his future wife, who was then the star of the hotel's advertising campaign "we wouldn't be ruthless." Their marriage 18 years ago also took place at the hotel. Although they would have liked to, the couple didn't take the honeymoon suite on this occasion. They flew back to New York to celebrate the last night of Hanukka with their three children.

**HOLLYWOOD STARS** and wannabes have long been keeping cosmetic surgeons in business, and some have started at a very early age. Sarah Gilbert, who plays the ugly-duckling tomboyish younger daughter in *Roseanne*, had her nose straightened and bobbed when she was only 16, and at 21 shows swan-like signs of being a classic beauty. Her older sister, Melissa, who for several years captivated television viewers in her role as Laura in *Little House on the Prairie*, also underwent a nose job. But neither can compete with Tori Spelling, the 21-year-old daughter of mega producer Aaron Spelling, who has thus far had lip and breast enhancements which were really superfluous. Nature had already done well by Tori, but she wanted to go one better.

**AS RESTAURANTS** increasingly become non-smoking territory, roving-eye British heart-throb Hugh Grant and his live-in super model Elizabeth Hurley, who is into making a celluloid career of her own, find it difficult to dine out. The gorgeous Hurley is a heavy smoker who can't go too long without a puff. So far, the couple have discovered only two Los Angeles restaurants in which Hurley can indulge her habit.

# All the hot air that fits, they air

THE WEEK THAT WAS  
MICHAL YUDELMAN

**I**n a dramatic and unprecedented maneuver that set media analysts abuzz, the prime minister and finance minister commanded the prime-time news editions of both television channels Sunday night for what purported to be a "news conference" on the budget. A prime-time news conference given by a prime minister is to announce, er, news, right? Wrong. Anyone who tuned in for a dramatic or informative policy announcement, on the budget cuts for example, was sorely disappointed. As Netanyahu and Meridor dined on about how important the budget cuts are, and called for "your understanding and support," it dawned on horrified editors that they were screening as news what, at best, was a party political broadcast, and, at worst, was a dollop of PR treacle.

The "news conference" had as much news content as the public-relations faxes that fill the trash cans of news editors across the nation at that time of night.

Whatever minor media interest lurked within was exposed by those who said the prime minister was addressing not the media or the nation, but those ministers and coalition MKs who had threatened to oppose the budget cuts in child allowances, education, health services, and pension allocations.

"I do hope the ministers had been instructed to watch the television," said cynical former finance minister Avraham Shohat. Shohat predicted that whatever Netanyahu says, there will be tax hikes - since the government has no power to approve the budget as it stands. Others challenged Netanyahu's other rosy picture of foreign investors lining up to invest in Israel, with more ready to pour in after budget cuts.

In fact, foreign interest in Israel is a dead duck. Media and Internet business information services on Israel are folding up across Europe and the US. "I couldn't even raise interest in Israel in New York since May," said a major Internet publisher in Europe as he closed down his Israel operation last week.

**ARAFAT**, and King Hussein. Reports of the meeting with Hussein were the most glowing.

Then it slipped out that Hussein had said some extremely harsh things to Netanyahu and warned him that everything gained in the peace process was about to be lost.

Last week, Netanyahu returned from the European Union trilling descriptions of the trip as a diplomatic triumph by the prime minister. The observations of Europe's sophisticated leaders were somewhat different - not just those sharp ones of French President Jacques Chirac. In a fair but frosty editorial, *The Irish Times* concluded after Netanyahu's visit to Dublin, the current presidency capital of the EU, that his words were "encouraging but not convincing."

**O'SARAH** While Netanyahu was attempting to ply his political charm on the Irish, who are already renowned for the real thing, his wife took the opportunity to display her knowledge in a country also famed for its arts and learning.

She joined the Irish prime minister's wife, Finola Bruton, on a trip to the Jewish Museum in Dublin's Portobello district, for some lessons on the history of the Irish Jewish community.

"I didn't know there was a Jewish museum in Ireland," mused Mrs. Netanyahu at the museum. Maybe the prime minister's wife, or his Foreign Ministry staff, should see to it that she does know such things.

Especially since Dublin gave Israel a president, Chaim Herzog, and the mainly Catholic capital has elected two Jewish Lord Mayors for itself since independence. The museum was converted from a synagogue, founded in 1918, in honor of a 1977 homecoming state visit by President Herzog.

Stanley Siev, head of the museum committee, told Sarah there once had been nine synagogues in Ireland but now there are only three.

"Why?" *The Irish Times* quoted her as asking. "Do they not pray any more?"

No, Sarah - but half the former community of 5,000 have made aliya and are thriving in Israel.

On one point, at least, Sarah was able to enlighten her hosts on Jewish culture as she explained a ketuba on display: "It doesn't work if the woman leaves - the man can survive. But in the past when women didn't have jobs, if the man left them they had nothing, so this was to protect them."

"You see," Netanyahu informed the Irish, "women's rights are explicit in the Bible." That may be as new to Israeli women as it was to the Irish.

It is to be hoped Mrs. Netanyahu learned more from Ireland - the only European country which has the rights of its Jews explicitly written into its constitution - than the Irish learned from her.

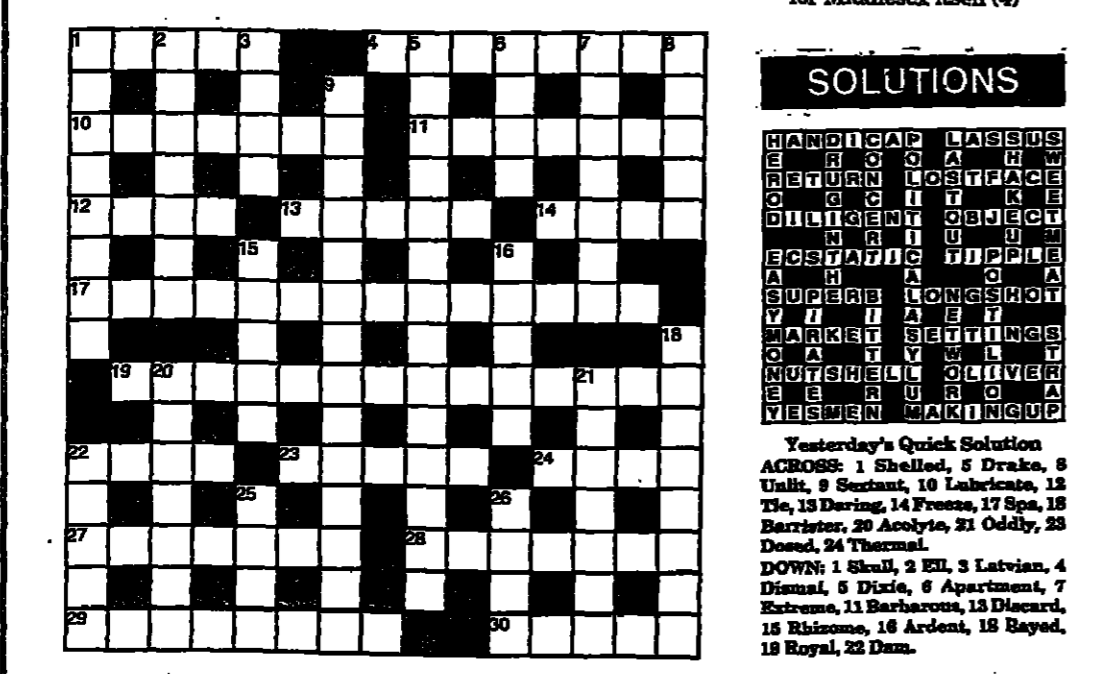
## BRULIK by DOSH



## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**  
 1 Warm coat for garden area (5)  
 4 Judge of a wind-instrument (8)  
 10 Becktrack, showing tail? (7)  
 11 Awakening interest of university in laser development (7)  
 12 Voice used in cathedral today? (4)  
 13 An improvement on the other hand (5)  
 14 Watchful of road running through track (4)  
 17 Exceptionally colourful gatherer in fall, wandering (6,4,4)  
 19 End motorway thrill with short note (14)  
 22 Hints picked up by potters (4)

**DOWN**  
 1 Easily-carried wine affective? (8)  
 2 Arresting hot-rod driver (7)  
 3 "Blithe Spirit" not to open? (4)  
 5 In this, men are all the same (14)  
 23 Handling guns, one is taken to pieces (6)  
 24 Clipping tail off marsh-bird (4)  
 27 Many cardinals are certain of reproof (7)  
 28 Men who oppress women live on board (7)  
 29 Praise from Louis? Geel that is unusual (8)  
 30 Singer's in the way (5)



**ACROSS**  
 1 English elegist (4)  
 3 Common bird (8)  
 9 Share out (5)  
 10 Illuminate (7)  
 11 Spinning toy (3)  
 13 Venetian boatman (9)  
 14 Scanty (6)  
 16 Loll (6)  
 18 Inflammation of skin, from exposure to cold (9)  
 20 Ambition (3)  
 23 Difficult to catch (7)  
 25 Copy, mock-up (5)  
 26 Bare bones (8)  
 28 Covetousness (4)

**DOWN**  
 1 Bud, implant (5)  
 2 Fast unwell (3)  
 4 Gift, fair (6)  
 5 Reorganize forces (7)  
 6 Complex (9)  
 7 Widespread (7)  
 8 Male deer (4)  
 12 Hackneyed saying (9)  
 14 Favourable outcome (7)  
 15 Exalted, supreme (7)  
 17 Summerhouse (6)  
 19 Appellation (4)  
 21 Detain, hinder (5)  
 24 Great noise (3)

## CALLING ALL YOU HANDICRAFTERS

The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, at the Katmana Sports Center, next to Metro West High School.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, December 13, 1996

13

## Gov't won't meet December deadline for privatization plan

DAVID HARRIS

FIVE months after the establishment of the government, the list of companies to be privatized has yet to be finalized, Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general Moshe Leon said this week.

After having confirmed the list would be made public by the first week in December, Leon admitted it only will be ready "in the coming weeks."

The Prime Minister's Office has said the reason for the delay is the heavy workload on the diplomatic front, with talks on the Hebron redeployment continuing far longer than anyone expected.

However, this is not the first delay in announcing which companies will be sold to the private sector next year, and during the rest of the coalition's term in office.

Initially, the government was talking about some form of announcement during its first 100 days in office. In late July, for example, a special cabinet meeting to discuss reform proposals was delayed because of protracted negotiations.

It also took Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu longer than expected to move responsibility for privatization from the Treasury to his own office and then to recruit the relevant team.

Zvi Alderoti, former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, was asked to head an embryonic privatization authority. However, Alderoti, a Labor Party member who served as Yitzhak Rabin's and Shimon Peres's director-general, decided not to work with the new government.

At the same time, Government Companies Authority head Tamir Ben-David resigned, saying she objected to the authority being moved from the Treasury to the Prime Minister's Office. However, a source said at the time it was more likely she quit because of the speed with which Netanyahu intended ploughing ahead with the privatization program.

## Current account deficit up 34%

JERUSALEM POST STAFF

ISRAEL'S current-account deficit grew by 34 percent in the first nine months of the year, totaling \$4.7 billion, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

During the corresponding period last year the current-account deficit, or the gap between imports and exports of goods, services and unilateral transfers, stood at \$3.5b.

Excluding defense-related merchandise, imports were \$8.2b. more than exports, as opposed to \$7b. in 1995.

Meanwhile, the economy's overall external

debt during the first three quarters rose by \$1.8b., while Israeli-held assets abroad dropped by \$1.6b.

Total external debt, after deduction of \$25.3b. Israeli-held assets abroad, reached \$21.3b. as of September 30.

Foreign investments in Israel grew during the January-September period by \$300 million to \$1.6b., while Israeli investments overseas rose by more than 50%, from \$0.5b. to \$0.8b.

through September 30.

Imports of goods and services totaled \$31.9b. in the first three quarters, up from \$29.2b. during the same period last year.

Imports grew mainly due to accelerated civilian imports, which expanded by \$1.2b.

Exports of goods and services totaled \$22.5b. in the nine-month period, \$1.3b. more than in the first three quarters last year.

Unilateral transfers, which consist of foreign aid and private donations, rose by \$400m. during the first three quarters, totaling \$4.8b.



Environment Minister Rafael Eitan examines Finitzia America-Israel's new \$4 million air-filtration system, which was unveiled yesterday. Company president Oded Tirah (left) said the Nazareth IIII factory has invested some \$6.5m. in environmental measures.

## Telecom pact seen closer after WTO talks

ROBERT EVANS

SINGAPORE - Senior trade officials said yesterday that talks in Singapore on basic telecommunications had given a major impetus to an effort to shape a global pact in the \$500 billion-a-year industry by next February's deadline. The officials, from different countries involved in the long-running discussions, said a final accord would almost certainly now hang on whether the US was happy with packages put up by Asian countries.

"In my view, there are now really strong grounds for optimism," said one key figure at the center of the negotiations, which are to resume at the World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva early in 1997.

Peter Guilford, spokesman for European Union Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, told reporters at the WTO's first Ministerial Conference a US-EU

led deal on information technology products (IT) was a good omen.

"We hope it will be a spur to encourage countries to be generous in their offers on telecommunications, which is the other big harvest we are looking for," he told reporters.

Much of the equipment to be covered in the IT deal - which will remove all tariffs in the sector by the year 2000 if enough other countries sign up - is used in telecoms.

A US official was noncommittal on how far prospects for a telecom deal had improved.

"We will have to see in February whether there is a good enough critical mass of offers on the table," he said. "But there are interesting things happening."

The US pulled out of an earlier WTO bid to reach a pact by the end

of April this year, saying proposals from big emerging economies on opening their markets were not enough to make it worthwhile. But the talks were resumed in the summer and given a kick-start last month when Washington and Brussels - at odds on several telecom issues - put up new packages which they said largely met each others' concerns.

Diplomats and officials at the WTO's first Ministerial Conference - where the telecom issue has been a major backstage topic for negotiators - said they were especially encouraged by a shift announced by Singapore. The conference host said on Wednesday it would now commit itself to opening up its telecoms market to all-comer competition by the end of the century - seven years sooner than originally proposed and a two-year advance on its last offer. (Reuters)

## Akirov buys Takam House for \$12m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

REAL estate developer Alfred Akirov has purchased the Takam (United Kibbutz Movement) building in Tel Aviv for \$12 million.

The kibbutzim sold the building in an attempt to repay some of their large debts to the banking sector.

The building was acquired through Adsha Promotion of Projects in Tel Aviv, a subsidiary of Adsha, which is controlled by Akirov.

The four-story Takam building is situated on a 2,574 sq.m. plot. The building consists of 5,000 sq.m. of office space as well as a basement and roof floor. According to the transaction, Adsha will also receive building rights on another, 742.69 sq.m. plot.

The transaction is subject to the approval of Adsha's board of directors. El'rov, Adsha's parent company, has agreed to purchase the building via another subsidiary if Adsha's board objects to the transaction.

In other news, El'rov has signed an agreement to purchase the Ladbroke Group's rights to the commercial area in Jerusalem's Mamilla section for \$3.65m. According to the agreement, El'rov will acquire Ladbroke's 50% share, increasing its total share to 100%.

El'rov also signed an agreement with Hilton International whereby Hilton will manage its eight-story, 300-room, five-star hotel in the commercial area. The El'rov group has already started development of the hotel, at a total investment of \$35 million. The hotel, which will cover 20,000 sq.m., is scheduled to open in three years and has received a 25 percent funding grant.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Iran says Moslem trade group to meet in Turkey: Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said yesterday a Group of Eight Moslem nations would meet in Turkey next month to discuss economic cooperation. He said the group comprising Nigeria, Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Iran have had two meetings so far. Velayati said there were good opportunities in such areas as energy, and cotton from Central Asia, including production, transportation and the development of textile factories. Velayati said Iran had developed air, rail and shipping links with Central Asia and the Caucasus, and was a good transit point for movements to and from those areas. (Reuters)

Iraq launches tender to buy wheat from France: Iraq has launched a tender in the grain market to import 100,000 tons of French wheat during January and February, grain traders in Paris said yesterday. Grain markets had been waiting for a move to buy wheat as Iraq prepares to sell limited quantities of oil under a UN-approved scheme to raise money for food and medicine. (Reuters)

Police break up protests over US modified grain: Police moved in to break up two separate demonstrations in Europe yesterday against genetically altered grain from the United States. In Hamburg they dispersed a Greenpeace demonstration against maize going to the Czech Republic while on the Rhine, officers ejected activists trying to stop soybeans going to Switzerland. The protests were the latest of several in recent weeks against modified feed grain. The cargo on the ship *Huay Katowice*, originating in the US, is believed to contain modified maize, which is not yet allowed to be imported into the European Union. (Reuters)

## IEC raises record \$600m. in US bonds

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Israel Electric Corporation yesterday announced it has raised \$600 million in an overseas offering of debentures. This is the largest private offering ever carried out by an Israeli company.

The capital was raised at the end of a nine-day road show in six cities in the US, headed by IEC chairman Gad Ya'acobi and general manager Rafi Peled.

IEC is the country's main producer and supplier of electricity. The proceeds of the offering will be used to help finance the company's development plans for the next three years, which amount to about NIS 4.5 billion per year.

The debentures were purchased by large American institutional investors through underwriters led by Lehman Brothers. Solomon Brothers served as the secondary underwriter, while the Bank of New York was the trustee for the offering.

IEC offered debentures for 10, 30 and 100 years. This is the first time debentures for 100 years were offered. The concept was initiated by Lehman Brothers, which was in charge of marketing the long term debentures, a spokesperson for Lehman Brothers said.

The company said it had initially intended to raise \$400m., 50% less than the actual amount raised, IEC said.

"This is an important breakthrough for the Electric Corporation and a show of confidence in the company by the largest capital market in the world," IEC said in a press release.

IEC said that the offering has opened up to the company the US market and also the European market.

Prior to the offering, Standard & Poor's, the international rating company, and Moody's Investors Service gave IEC a rating of A and A3 respectively, similar to the State of Israel's rating. The rating indicates that IEC is a credible company with a solid financial base, IEC said.

The debentures carry a coupon of 7.277% for 10 years, which is similar to those carried by the bonds issued by the Bank of Israel. The coupon on the 30-year bonds is 7.914% and on the 100-year bonds, 8.114%.

## Discount offering underwriters selected

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government has appointed four Israeli brokerage firms as the lead underwriters for the public offering of Bank Discount's shares, a government source said yesterday.

MI Holdings, the state-owned firm in charge of the sale, has appointed Clal Issuers, IBI, Leader Issues and Eyal Securities to head the consortium of local underwriters. Their appointment marks the first step towards carrying out the offering.

Bank Discount's offering is scheduled for the end of February 1997, based on the bank's financial statements for the third quarter of 1996. The government intends to raise between NIS 100 million and NIS 150m. on the Tel Aviv Stock

Exchange.

Bank Discount has decided to raise, concurrently with the government's offering, up to NIS 300m. by issuing subordinated capital notes to the public. The issue is intended to expand Bank Discount's operational base and improve its capital ratio.

Several weeks ago, MI Holdings requested that Bank Discount assist it in publishing a prospectus. MI Holdings has not yet announced the quantity of shares to be offered to the public.

Unlike Bank Discount's previous offering, all of Bank Discount's shares will be offered on the local market. In early March, the government offered the public 73.5m. shares, more than half of which were snapped up by European institutional investors through underwriters led by Lehman Brothers. The sale reduced the government's share in Discount Bank to 72 percent from 87%.

Bank Discount completed the third quarter of 1996 with a net profit of NIS 81.6m., up 48.8% from the third quarter of 1995. The bank reported a net profit of NIS 217.7m. for the first nine months of the year, up 11% compared with the corresponding period last year. In the nine month period, net return on equity on an annual basis reached 7.7%, compared with 7.4% for all of 1995.

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**ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS**

**Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)**

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.763	5.000	4.250
German mark (€100,000)	3.676	4.000	4.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	0.825	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (12.12.96)**

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.8384	3.8971	3.19	3.38	3.8881
U.S. dollar	3.2538	3.3063	2.08	2.17	3.2820
German mark	2.1430	2.1400	2.08	2.17	2.1242
French franc	5.3723	5.4590	5.28	5.54	5.4235
Japanese yen (100)	0.6222	0.6333	0.61	0.65	0.6287
Dutch florin	2.6743	2.8207	2.82	2.87	2.8998
Swiss franc	1.8777	1.9080	1.84	1.94	1.8851
Swedish krona	2.4723	2.5122	2.42	2.56	2.4138
Norwegian krona	0.4776	0.4853	0.46	0.50	0.4818
Denish krone	0.5304	0.5118	0.49	0.52	0.5076
Finish mark	0.5500	0.5598	0.54	0.57	0.5546
Austrian dollar	0.7038	0.7190	0.69	0.73	0.7102
Australian dollar	2.3715	2.4304	2.35	2.47	2.4138
S. African rand	2.5781	2.6177	2.53	2.65	2.6024
Belgian franc (10)	0.8928	0.7038	0.82	0.71	0.8839
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0218	1.0383	1.00	1.06	1.0300
Italian lira (1000)	2.9890	3.0413	2.94	3.08	3.0222
Jordanian dinar	2.1314	2.1888	2.09	2.20	2.1458
Egyptian pound	4.8300	4.8300	4.82	4.83	4.8789
ECU	0.8200	1.0100	0.82	1.01	1.0398
Irish punt	4.0811	4.1287	—	—	4.0818
Spanish peseta (100)	5.3915	5.4785	5.29	5.56	5.4416
—	2.5026	2.445	2.45	2.58	2.5230

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

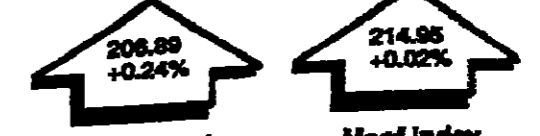
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stocks steady as traders watch budget debate

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



Two-Sided index Maof Index

STOCKS were little changed yesterday as optimism the government will be able to cut spending was offset by concern the balance-of-payments deficit was growing. Companies closing unchanged included Koor Industries and Teva Pharmaceutical. Koor's American depository receipts were up 1/8 at 16 7/8 in early trading in New York. Teva's ADRs were up 1/2 at 46 3/4. The Maof Index rose 0.02 percent to 214.95, and the Two-sided Index gained 0.24% to 206.89. The general bond index was unchanged. The Maof Index fell 0.7% this week and the Two-sided index rose 0.3%. Of 973 shares trading across the exchange, nearly six shares fell for every five that rose. Some NIS 90.4 million of shares changed hands, NIS 15m. below Wednesday's level. "The market is positive about the budget, about a possible agreement with the Palestinians and lower interest rates," said Gidi Halpern, a portfolio manager at Tel Aviv investment firm Meitav. If the government succeeds in cutting spending, the Bank of Israel is expected to reduce interest rates. In the weeks ahead, parliament's finance committee will debate and may make changes. "There's a feeling that (Bank of Israel Gov. Jacob Frenkel) will lower rates at the end of January if the Knesset approves the budget," said Halpern. The central bank's monetary policy is also likely to be influenced by November's CPI, due for release Sunday after trading ends. Expectations range around an increase of 0.5% to 0.7% in the month, said Halpern. Inflationary expectations for the year ahead have risen recently from about 9.5% to 10%, he added. Halpern added that investors were concerned about how US stocks would perform in days ahead. "I thought today's trading would be worse because of the U.S.," he said.

Eurobourses little changed, pressured by unpredictable Dow

World Market Report

LONDON (Reuters) - European stocks were dragged down in late trading yesterday by a volatile Wall Street which quickly shed early gains in a bout of profit-taking. European bourses had an unsettled day, with most seeing their gains eroded at the close after spurring forward when weaker-than-expected US retail sales figures allayed fears of an imminent rise in interest rates. Nervous investors throughout the day kept a wary eye on New York, where the Dow Industrial average has risen nearly 30 percent this year. Many believed a downturn was overdue. When Wall Street, which made a positive start on the subdued inflationary pressure report, suddenly turned sour and fell, European bourses got the jitters. London, one of the strongest climbers, was up 0.7% at one point, only to see its advance eaten away. It ended the day barely in the plus column. After rising 27 points at one stage, the FTSE 100 closed just 8.2 points higher at 3,990.7. British Gas, BAT and AB Foods were among the biggest gainers as investors went year-end bargain-hunting. In Frankfurt, the IBIS index that measures computerized trading climbed by 0.7% after the US data eased interest-rate fears, but the index slipped back to show a gain of only 0.4% at the finish. The 30-share DAX index up 6.03 at 2,847.08. In Paris, stocks made a modest advance by midafternoon, then retreated to a slight loss at the finish. The CAC-40 share index finished down 1.17 at 2,212.11. On the currency front, the dollar ended the European session comfortably above 1.54 marks and 113 yen as the prospects for agreement on an EU stability pact improved.

Dow stocks continue tumble Wall Street Report

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks were pounded lower yesterday by aggressive selling from investors, who chose to book profits even after fresh indications that the economy is growing moderately and inflation is in check. At the close on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 98.81 to 6,303.71. Two-thirds of the losses came in the last hour of trading. Declining issues outnumbered advancers by 9 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange. NYSE volume totaled 492.76 million shares, vs. 494.19 million in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 11.42 to 729.31, and the NYSE's composite index fell 5.25 to 384.29. The Nasdaq composite index declined 10.80 to 1,298.32, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index fell 4.81 to 579.11. Stocks started the day higher after three encouraging economic reports, but the rally was over in the first hour. Investors are jittery about a host of issues, beginning with last week's statement by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that stocks were in the throes of "irrational exuberance." Some experts said Greenspan was trying to talk the market lower, and may even be preparing to increase interest rates, if not this month then after the first of the year. Earlier this week, there were reports that Japanese investors, who have been crucial participants in the United States bond market, may withdraw their support. More important to the stock market were anecdotal indications that US annual fund investors may be lightening up on US stocks. Investors concentrated their selling in names that are showing strong recent returns. The Dow industrials were led lower by Philip Morris, down sharply after a strong gain on Wednesday. McDonalds fell sharply as well. But computer-related stocks were mixed, with some benefiting for the second day from an enthusiastic reception by analysts at a conference in San Francisco. Intel was up more than 2 points.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Rows include STERLING, YEN, SF, FF with corresponding rates.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices categorized by Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

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Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, Frankfurt, and Paris. Lists company names and their respective prices.

Key Representative Rates

U.S. Dollar NIS 3.2820 +0.121
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German mark NIS 2.1242 -0.27

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, NYSE, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks in US including AMEX, NASDAQ, OTC, etc.

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crosses (US)

Table of dollar crosses including Pound, Swiss, French, etc.

Labor rates

Table of labor rates for various countries.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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INFLATION COMMODITIES

US commodities

Table of US commodities including Cocoa, Sugar, etc.

London commodities

Table of London commodities including Cocoa, Sugar, etc.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metals including Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures including Gold, Silver, etc.

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# Arab 'Equality Conference' begins

DAVID RUDGE

AN international conference on equality opens in Nazareth today as part of a growing campaign by Israeli Arabs to press for the same rights, opportunities and facilities that their Jewish counterparts receive.

from abroad are slated to speak at the conference, which is being organized by the forum of Arab Council Heads and other bodies. No cabinet members or other government officials have been invited.

"The time has come to remedy that situation by bringing the level of all services and infrastructure, budgets and so forth, up to the level of those in the Jewish sector and ensure that Arabs have full equality," he added.

(Continued from Page 1)

Through the years Generali attempted to recoup its assets from the Czech regime, eventually amassing by 1988 the current-day equivalent of \$8,453,497.

(Continued from Page 1)

ambush took place. The army continues to keep Ramallah under closure, which officially means no one goes in and no one comes out.

## GENERALI

ty, it is with the Czech companies which succeeded Generali," Ben-Porat said. These companies were run by the state.

## PFLP

tridges and cannon shells. The soldiers confiscated the ammunition and Israel Police launched an investigation into the matter.

## GENERALI

company was nationalized," he added. While Generali said it will not pay out, nor does it have any moral obligation to do so, Ben-Porat said the company is currently looking at making a possible gesture, perhaps in Israel, to commemorate those who perished in the Holocaust.

## VICTIMS

Earlier in the day, he told Israel Radio "[Netanyahu] must be firm and say that every place where a Jew is harmed, a settlement will be established or expanded. An Arab who goes out on an attack should know that he is, with his own hands, leading to the building and strengthening of the settlement in Judea and Samaria."

## Woman whose marriage not recognized by IDF released from jail

THE IDF yesterday released Shiri Druckman Arnold, who was married in a civil ceremony in May, from the military prison where she had been serving time for desertion since Monday.

has lived in Israel for five years and recently applied for citizenship. "Why don't they release her from the army, she is already married. She is my wife, and she does not need to be in the army. What do they have against her?" Arnold said before her release yesterday.

## Court rejects Deri's request to see evidence

JERUSALEM District Court yesterday rejected a request by the defense in the trial of Shas MK Aryeh Deri to obtain all the evidence considered by the Gidron committee, which examined allegations the General Security Service and police leaked information to the defendants.

issue of the leaks was irrelevant to the guilt or innocence of the defendants, Deri, Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg, and Yom-Tov Rubin.

Ya'acov Shmulevitz of conversations with defendant Moshe Weinberg were submitted in the court. In the recordings, Weinberg said he knew his phones and those of the other defendants were being tapped and hinted he was told this by GSS contacts.

## THEATER

All shows are in Hebrew except those marked with a star. Times are p.m. unless otherwise stated.

drome. (Khan Theater, Tues., 8:30) **STORY IV** - While reading her grandmother's diaries, Naomi comes on a dark family secret that changes her life. This story traces the life of a family from Germany in 1935 to Israel in the '70s. Subtitled "melodrama," we are well warned of its *trite thematic sweetness and growing nostalgic*. (Jerusalem Theater, Sat-Mon., 8:30)

Hatrabut, Sat-Thurs., 9) **HENRY IV** (Framat Anon, Hasfiya, 18 Hist. Zion, today, 8:30; Sun., 9:30; Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8:30) **THE IDIOT** - Geshur Theater production of the play by Dostoyevsky. (Old Jaffa, Geshur Theater, Sat., 8:30)

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JERUSALEM
ABU NIMER STORIES - A collage of stories written by Dahn Ben-Amotz. (Khan Theater, Sat., 8:30; Sun., 4) **ANNA GALACTICA** - Story of loyalty, submission, jealousy and foremost, love. (Khan Theater, Mon., Wed. and Thurs., 8:30)

TEL AVIV AREA
THE ABANDONED COUPLE - A satire on every subject (almost every) with Shirli Deshe and Dor Zwiengenberg. (Meksim Auditorium, tonight, 8:30)

HAIFA
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN AMARSHIT Arab Theater in Israel. Written by Dario Fo. A polished professional company responds to excellent direction with hilarious results. (Stage 2, Mon-Thurs., 8:30)

Tues.-Thurs., 8:30 = 6941111) **CHORROW I AM 52** - A woman's battle to overcome an eating disorder. (Tzavta, Wed., 8) **TRIO IN E FLAT** - Eric Rohmer's drama on the age-old theme of youth and romance. (Old Jaffa, Hasfiya, tonight, 10:30 = 6812126)

different angle: the women in his life. (Theater, Moadon, Sun-Thurs., 8:30) **MY FIRST SONY** - TheaterNetto 1996 with Rci Horowitz. (Theater, Moadon, Sat., 9)

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Special Buffet Lunch - NIS 44 (children - NIS 22) served 12:30-3:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. Please call for reservations

AT THE OTHER END OF THE HOUSE - See Jerm. (ZOA House, Thurs., 8:30) **BLOOD KNOT** - Arab Theater in Israel. The problems of racial prejudice in South Africa. High standard of acting and staging make for a highly professional and promising achievement on the part of this newly established company. (Jaffa, Noga Theater, Sun., 7:30)

THE STORY OF THE CITY ODDESSA - Reveals the Jewish underworld in Odessa. Directed by Yevgeny Arsh. (Old Jaffa, Geshur Theater, Wed. and Thurs., 8:30) **SYLVIA** - Romantic comedy written by A.R. Gurney about a man who finds a talking dog in the park. Lightest of light comedies performed with wit, charm, and uproarious hilarity. Sylvia is the right antidote for these gloomy times. (Beit Lessin,

OTHER LOCALES
ART - See T.A. (Pardess Hanna, Wed. and Thurs., 8:30) **BIANCA** - Written by Miriam Kalney and directed by Micha Lewesohr. About refugees and uprooting. A spineless drama that starts out of nothing and goes nowhere. (Kfar Yona, Sat., 9)

BEERSHEBA AND SOUTH
ART - See T.A. (Eilat, Theater, Mon., 8:30)

DON'T WRITE OFF YOUR OLD FOUNTAIN PENS
PHILLIPS is holding an auction of fountain pens in London on March 4, 1997. If you have pre-1950 pens (Swan, Mable Todd, Pelikan, Conklin, Sheaffer, Wahl Eversharp, Parker, Namiki, Onotos etc.), and would like a valuation or advice with a view to selling at auction, please telephone Kathleen Bower at 00-44-171-468-8373.

GOOD SOLDIER SCHWEIK - Ilan Ronen's adaptation of the Jaroslav Hasek anti-war novel. Unhappily conceived as this season's hit, this unlikable explosion of sheer entertainment led by the irresistible Shlomo Bar-Abu sidesteps the acidity of the original. (Habimah, Sat., 8:30) **HAROLD AND MAUDE** - Written by Colin Higgins, directed by Itzik Weingarten. (Ness Ziona, Heichal

HAIFA
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN AMARSHIT Arab Theater in Israel. Written by Dario Fo. A polished professional company responds to excellent direction with hilarious results. (Stage 2, Mon-Thurs., 8:30) **MY AFFAIR WITH BRECHT** - Performed by Noga Pappaport with Avid Weiss, pianist, actor. A monodrama presenting Brecht's songs from a

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LIGHTS A Story About Hanukkah
Narrated by Judd Hirsch and Leonard Nimoy, this animated film has become a holiday classic. Through charming cartoon characters and richly orchestrated sound track, the story tells of an unusual light that refused to be extinguished. Produced by the Geshur Foundation, Israel. Ages 6-Adult. In English or with Hebrew subtitles. NTSC or PAL. JP Price: NIS 65 inc. VAT

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"The Migdal deal is a very important contribution to the Israeli economy and its international standing," Ben-Porat added.

The Stern family remains unimpressed by the reaction it has received from Generali, pointing out that it has been able to provide dates and names, together with the recently found 67-year-old policy.

"How can we ever expect the Swiss banks to pay out with no names, no account numbers and no relevant dates, if Generali won't pay out when we have provided information," Martin Stern said last night. "While my grandfather did have Swiss accounts, we haven't had the audacity to approach the Swiss."

our workers will be in danger and we will take the necessary measures to confront such matters," he added, though he did not elaborate.

Government officials were upset that Arafat and other senior PA officials have not condemned the terror attack near Beit El. David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's communications director, said last night: "We find this disappointing that neither Chairman Arafat nor any of the leaders of the Palestinian Authority have found it necessary to condemn this heinous act."

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All material for listing in The Poster (APART FROM LISTINGS FOR THE ART SECTION) should be sent to JUDIE FATTAL by mail, fax (02-5398527) or email (judie@post.co.il) and should arrive at the Jerusalem Post offices no later than noon on Sunday prior to publication date. Critic's appraisals by Naomi Doukai. Poster pages compiled by Judie Fattal.

book VIDEO COLLECTION
LIGHTS A Story About Hanukkah
Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of: LIGHTS A Story About Hanukkah at NIS 65 each. Postage in Israel: one copy NIS 5, two or more NIS 10 or airmail NIS 12 per copy. Total NIS: \_\_\_\_\_ System required:  VHS-PAL  PAL  VHS-NTSC (N. America) Enclosed check payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details. Please list gift recipients' names, addresses and messages separately.  Visa  MC/AmEx  CC No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# India beats S. Africa in final Test Popa powers Maccabi to win over Turks

KANPUR, India (Reuters) - India wrapped up its first-ever Test series triumph over South Africa yesterday and now expects to continue its winning form in the republic, captain Sachin Tendulkar said.

India took the rubber 2-1 with a 280-run victory on the fifth and last day of the third and final Test, dismissing South Africa for 180 as the team pursued an improbable target of 461 to win.

"We now look forward to beating them in South Africa," an ecstatic Tendulkar told reporters. "The team morale is high and we are eager to continue the winning spree."

India plays a return three-Test series in South Africa on its seven-week tour beginning on December 19 which also features a triangular limited-over series with the host country and Zimbabwe.

Tendulkar, who has won three of the four Tests he has played as India's captain since taking over from Mohammad Azharuddin, said: "It's a great feeling to beat South Africa, who are one of the best teams in the world."

Looking ahead to the contest in South Africa, Tendulkar added: "It is not going to be an easy tour and there are no easy games there."

South African skipper Hansie Cronje said the attitude of the batsmen rather than tricks played by the pitch got them into problems at Kanpur.

"Those who were willing to stay, got runs," Cronje said.

"I'm obviously disappointed to lose the series, especially after having come back to draw parity at Calcutta. I'm disappointed but not disheartened as there were lots of positive things on this tour."

Cronje said his batsmen had failed to adjust to the slow pitches of the sub-continent. "We have not got used to low-bounce wickets and have not mastered the art of scoring big hundreds on turning wickets."

"Our batsmen like pitches where the ball comes on to the bat. Our bowlers prefer wickets where the ball has more carry."

South Africa plays a one-day international against India in Bombay tomorrow, a benefit game for former Test batsman Mohinder Amarnath, before taking the battle to home soil.

India, which has not lost a home Test series since its 1986-87 defeat to Pakistan, won the opening Test in Ahmedabad and South Africa leveled the rubber with a crushing 329-run triumph in Calcutta.

India lost 1-0 to the South Africans in a four-match series on its last visit to the republic in



IN NIRVANA - Indian bowler Venkatesh Prasad celebrates after clean bowling South Africa's Fanie de Villiers.

1991-92.

Any lingering doubts about the outcome on the last day vanished when South Africa, resuming on 127 for five, lost three early wickets, including overnight batsmen Brian McMillan and Dave Richardson without addition to their scores.

Left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi, who finished with three for 66, had McMillan brilliantly caught by substitute Vangipurappu Laxman for 18 on the fourth ball of the morning, then medium-pacer Javagal Srinath trapped Richardson leg before for five.

Pat Symcox struck leg-spinner Anil Kumble for a six over mid-off before giving Joshi a return catch after making 11.

Venkatesh Prasad bowled Fanie de Villiers for two and Srinath had Paul Adams caught by Azharuddin in the slips for one to end the innings seven balls after lunch, leaving Lance Klusener 34 not out, containing five fours.

Azharuddin, sacked as captain earlier this year and nearly dropped from the side altogether, was named both the man of the match and the man of the series.

The elegant 33-year-old right-hander, who scored the joint fourth fastest Test century from 74 balls in the second Test in Calcutta, stroked 163 not out in the second innings, his 16th century in 75 Tests, and put the match out of South Africa's reach.

India (first innings) 227  
South Africa (first innings) 177  
India (second innings) 142  
South Africa (second innings) 180

Overnight 400 for 7 declared

South Africa (second innings)

Andrew Hudson c sub (Laxman) b Anil Kumble ..... 31  
Gary Kirsten lbw b Javagal Srinath ..... 34  
Herschelle Gibbs b Venkatesh Prasad ..... 5  
Darryl Cullinan run out ..... 2  
Hansie Cronje c Sachin Tendulkar b Sunil Joshi ..... 50  
Brian McMillan c Lakshman b Joshi ..... 18  
Dave Richardson lbw Srinath ..... 5  
Lance Klusener not out ..... 34  
Pat Symcox c and b Joshi ..... 11  
Fanie de Villiers b Prasad ..... 2  
Paul Adams c Azharuddin b Srinath ..... 1  
Extras (b+lb) ..... 14  
Total fall out in 286 overs ..... 188  
Fall: 1/21, 2/26, 3/38, 4/97, 5/109, 6/127, 7/138, 8/173

Bowling

Javagal Srinath 19.1-6-38-3  
Venkatesh Prasad 11.6-25-2  
Anil Kumble 24.1-17-27-1  
Sachin Tendulkar 13.3-10-0  
Sunil Joshi 23.4-65-3

### ARYEH DEAN COHEN

MACCABI Tel Aviv's 71-65 victory last night over Ulker Istanbul was a huge win for the club, fittingly delivered by a giant.

Scoring 18 points on 80 percent shooting, blocking shots, passing, and rebounding, the Pride of Romania Constantin Popa almost singlehandedly helped Maccabi to the victory, securing a third-place Group A finish in Euroleague play with a 6-4 record.

With Randy White again not supplying the goods, Zvi Sherf called on his man-mountain to help fight off a nasty Ulker zone defense, and to bother Ulker's red-hot three-point shooters.

The gamble paid off big, as Popa, Brad Leaf and Buck Johnson led an impressive Maccabi comeback, then held off the dangerous Turks to ensure Maccabi will meet less powerful opponents in the next round of Euroleague play.

Popa was everywhere, from the moment he entered the game with just under nine minutes left in the first half. At that point, Maccabi was still trailing 19-12, after the Turks lived up to their reputation for absolutely uncanny three-point shooting, with Haluk Yildirim hitting three straight bomb attempts. Maccabi players weren't exactly helping their own cause, either. When they weren't taking bad shots they were missing the easy ones (36 percent shooting from two-point range in the half), and Yael Eliahu fans could be seen shaking their heads.

Enter Popa, who stuffed home his first of seven baskets on the night to get the crowd juiced. Brad Leaf electrified them further with a three-pointer, something starting guard Oded Katash again could not supply, and Maccabi was on the comeback trail. The Turks

tried to pull away again, but Popa had them firmly in his huge grasp, hitting a hook shot here, tapping in an offensive rebound there, and even making two foul shots. His offensive rebound at the buzzer sent Maccabi down by just four, 36-32.

Johnson scored the first two points of the second stanza to keep the pressure on the Turks, who suddenly turned their entire offense over to Turk national team point guard Orhun Ene. Ene proved he was up to the task, hitting two straight three-pointers to suddenly undo Maccabi's comeback, pulling Ulker to a 42-34 lead.

The crowd had gone dead quiet until Popa slammed home another dunk, then stole the ball, fed Nadav Henefeld, who then passed behind his back to a breaking Doron Sheffer as Maccabi closed to 42-40 with under 15 minutes left. Another offensive rebound basket by the Gentle Giant tied it at 44, but Ene - who scored all his team's points in the first nine minutes of the half - hit a basket and a foul shot.

But Popa wasn't going to be denied his night to be a hero. He blocked a shot in between hitting a hook shot and another snuff, then found an open Leaf for a three-point shot to keep Maccabi within 52-51. Leaf tied it before Johnson finally gave Maccabi its first lead of the game, 55-53, on a pass from Popa, at which point Ulker's coach could have asked FIBA officials - who have instituted a new, postgame drug test of two players on each team in Euroleague play - to stop the game right there, and run a saliva test on the big Romanian.

Leaf, who was questionable before the game due to an injured back, scored on an offensive rebound himself before Nadav Henefeld hit a back-breaking three-pointer as the 30 second clock went off, and Maccabi had a 62-54 lead.

That would have seemed secure against almost any club, but not the Mad Bombers from Ulker. Dan Godfred unleashed a three-pointer, as did Yildirim and then Hakkı Erdemler. But instead of turning to Jello at the line like Limoges did against Ulker last week, Maccabi players stood firm, with Leaf, Johnson and Derrick Sharp - who played fine defense vs. Ene - hitting clutch free throws to ice the important victory, and preserve Popa's big moment.

For Maccabi, the key to the turnaround was its defense. With Popa forcing Ulker shooters to redirect their three-pointers and clogging the middle and Sharp shadowing Ene, the Ulker offense ground to a halt in the second half. However, Sherf obviously still has a lot of work to do with the club's offense, which played almost as poorly as last week vs. Panionios, particularly Katash and White, who were never factors in the game.

Popa led Maccabi with 18 points, to go with eight rebounds, and may now be a threat to unseat Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo. Johnson and Leaf had 14 each and Henefeld had 10. Ene had 21 to lead Ulker.

Group A

Team	W	L	Pts
Stenland Milan	7	3	17
CSKA	6	4	16
Maccabi Tel Aviv	6	4	16
Ulker	4	6	14
Limoges	4	6	14
Panionios	3	7	13

# Union claims Rodman suspension unfair

NEW YORK (AP) - The NBA players union is urging Dennis Rodman to file a grievance over his two-game suspension, arguing that the Chicago Bulls violated the collective bargaining agreement by effectively fining Rodman more than \$104,000.

Rodman was suspended by the Bulls on Tuesday for a profanity-laden tirade he made about officiating in Chicago's loss at Toronto. The comments were broadcast live on cable television.

"Never before have we seen discipline approaching this level of severity for comments made in a locker room," NBA president Billy Hunter said Wednesday. "We believe the Bulls were motivated by other economic concerns, as it will now be more difficult for Dennis to earn bonuses in his contract for playing in a certain amount of games," Hunter said.

Rodman's contract stipulates that he must be available to play in 97 percent of the Bulls' regular-season games and 100 percent of the playoff games. If he doesn't, a portion of his salary becomes deferred into the next century. Rodman also would collect several hundred thousand dollars worth of bonus money if he plays in 79 of Chicago's 82 games.

Rodman must now play in all but one of the Bulls' remaining games in order to collect his entire \$6 million salary this season.

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## Toto Cup Action allows national squad to focus on Luxembourg

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL'S important World Cup qualifying match on Sunday takes precedence over the domestic scene this weekend. Instead of the regular league fare, the National League and Second Division sides will be playing out Round 6 of the Toto Cup.

Only five matches are scheduled between teams from the top flight, with the "big three" clubs that comprise the majority of the national squad, Beitar Jerusalem, Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv set to play their ties at a later date.

Israel's opponent, Luxembourg, began training at the National Stadium Ramat Gan yesterday. Meanwhile national coach Shlomo Scharf released Hapoel Haifa goalkeeper Rafi Cohen and Beitar defender Assi Domb from his squad for the

match.

Rafi Cohen has paid the price for his mistakes in the 2-0 defeat against Cyprus last month, and so the way is open for Beitar's Itzik Kornfein to take Cohen's place.

Avi Nimi is set to rejoin the squad today after completing his two-day trial with Sheffield Wednesday. Nimi impressed Wednesday coach David Pleat with his skill level and now awaits the next move from the Yorkshire outfit.

This weekend's National League Toto Cup fixtures (all matches today): Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Zefirum Holon, Bloomfield 2 pm; Hapoel Be'er Sheva v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Be'er Sheva 2 pm; Hapoel Talba v. Maccabi Herzliya, Netanya 2:30 pm; Hapoel Haifa v. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Kfar Sava 3 pm; Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Jerusalem, Petah Tikva 2 pm.

## Stransky heads to Leicester

LONDON (Reuters) - Former South African fly-half Joel Stransky became the latest big-name overseas signing in English rugby when he completed his move to first division Leicester yesterday.

But he immediately stressed that he had not given up hope of again playing for the Springboks.

Stransky follows his World Cup winning captain Francois Pienaar signed for Saracens last week in the lengthening line of high-profile foreign imports into the new professional game in England.

It is a list which includes former Wallabies Michael Lynagh and Tony Daley, Argentine Federico Mendez and the three Frenchmen Philippe Sella, Laurent Cabannes and Laurent Benezech as well as the more traditional numbers of Irish, Welsh and Scots.

Stransky will now have the opportunity of teaming up with another World Cup winner in the shape of Leicester coach Bob Dwyer. He was terminated the Wallabies success in 1991.

## Celtics beat Raptors in triple overtime

BOSTON - Rick Fox made a three-pointer at the triple-overtime buzzer as the Boston Celtics snapped a six-game losing streak with a 115-113 victory over the Toronto Raptors in the longest game this season on Wednesday.

It was Boston's first regular-season triple-overtime game in nearly 30 years.

Fox scored 24 points and David Wesley added 20 and 10 assists in 57 minutes for the Celtics, who had seven players in double figures. Barros scored 15 of his 18 points on three-pointers, Eric Williams had 15 points and a career-high 10 rebounds and Radja scored 13 points.

Damon Stoudamire had 31 points and 12 assists for the Raptors.

Bulls 103, Timberwolves 86

Michael Jordan scored 27 points and Scottie Pippen had 26 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as the host Chicago Bulls remained unbeaten against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

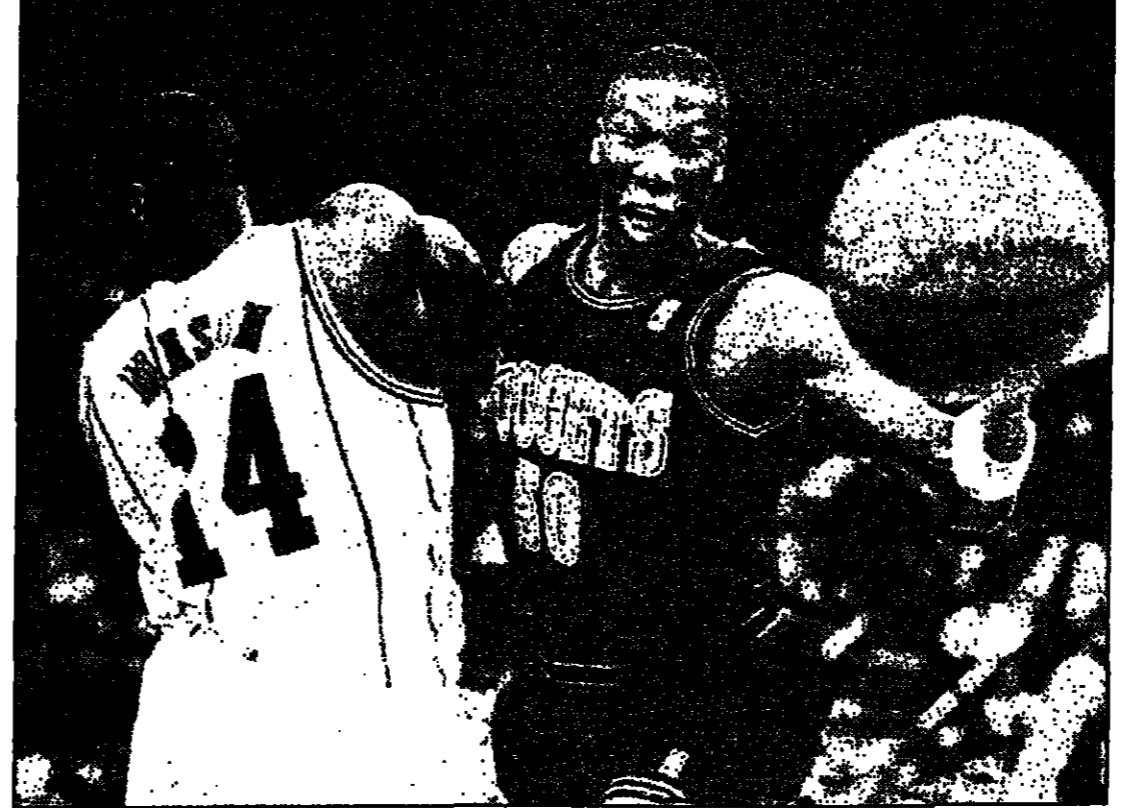
Chicago, playing without suspended forward Dennis Rodman, snapped a season-high two-game losing streak.

Minnesota held a 50-49 edge at halftime but the Bulls opened the second half on a 10-2 run for a 59-52 advantage. Jordan had four points in the run.

Nets 110, SuperSonics 101

Kendall Gill had 24 points in his grudge match with former coach George Karl and Robert Pack scored eight straight points to put host New Jersey ahead for good.

Kerry Kittles added 20 points



UP FOR GRABS - Denver Nuggets center Ervin Johnson loses control of the ball after running into Charlotte's Anthony Mason.

and Pack finished with 19 points and 12 assists as the Nets posted their first win over a team with a plus-500 record since February - a streak of 25 games.

Detlef Schrempf had a season-high 30 points for Seattle, which lost for the fourth time in six games.

Hornets 101, Nuggets 97

Charlotte played its first home game since finishing a seven-game road trip and got a season-high 25 points and a career-high 21 rebounds from Anthony Mason.

Dell Curry put the Hornets ahead to stay on a 3-pointer with 35 seconds left, helping send the

Nuggets to their eighth consecutive loss.

Charlotte got double-figure scoring from four other players, led by Glen Rice with 16. Dale Ellis had 24 points and Bryant Smith and Antonio McDyess added 20 apiece for Denver, which lost its seventh straight road game.

Heat 84, 76ers 79

Tim Hardaway scored 21 points and Alonzo Mourning had 20 points and 17 rebounds as Miami increased its road winning streak to 11 games.

Hardaway then drove past Allen Iverson for a layup that gave the Heat the lead for good, 80-79 with 26.4 seconds to play. (Reuters, AP)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	17	5	.773	-
New York	13	6	.684	2 1/2
Orlando	9	9	.500	5 1/2
Washington	8	11	.421	7 1/2
Philadelphia	7	13	.350	9
New Jersey	5	11	.313	9 1/2
Boston	5	13	.283	10 1/2

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	18	3	.857	-
Detroit	16	3	.842	1
Atlanta	12	8	.600	5 1/2
Cleveland	12	8	.600	5 1/2
Charlotte	11	9	.550	6 1/2
Minnesota	10	9	.526	7
Indiana	8	11	.421	9
Charlotte	7	14	.333	10 1/2
Toronto	7	14	.333	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	18	2	.900	-
Utah	17	2	.895	1
Dallas	8	11	.421	9 1/2
Minnesota	7	14	.333	11 1/2
Denver	5	17	.227	14
San Antonio	3	19	.158	16 1/2
Vancouver	3	19	.143	16 1/2

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	17	7	.708	-
Seattle	16	7	.692	1
Portland	12	9	.571	3 1/2
Golden State	8	13	.381	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	7	14	.333	8 1/2
Sacramento	7	14	.333	8 1/2
Phoenix	5	14	.263	9 1/2

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:

Beats 115, Toronto 113 (5 OT)  
Boston 110, Seattle 101  
Washington 106, Cleveland 95  
Charlotte 101, Denver 97  
Miami 84, Philadelphia 79  
Chicago 103, Minnesota 86  
L.A. Lakers 79, Indiana 76

## NHL SCOREBOARD

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:

Hartford 5, Florida 2; Buffalo 3, Montreal 2 (OT); N.Y. Islanders 5, N.Y. Rangers 3; St. Louis 5, Dallas 2; Colorado 6, Vancouver 1; Pittsburgh 7, Anaheim 3; San Jose 5, Washington 2.

Team	Eastern Conference					Western Conference							
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Florida	17	6	7	41	80	64	Dallas	16	10	3	35	83	72
Philadelphia	17	6	7	41	80	64	Detroit	15	9	5	35	81	53
New Jersey	15	11	3	31	69	67	St. Louis	15	14	1	31	90	91
N.Y. Rangers	13	14	5	31	109	93	Chicago	12	15	3	27	75	78
N.Y. Islanders	10	11	8	28	80	77	Toronto	12	18	0	24	85	105
Washington	13	15	2	27	74	75	Phoenix	10	15	4	24	69	90
Tampa Bay	8	18	2	20	73	84	Pacific Division						
Hartford	14	7	8	34	88	82	Colorado	18	8	4	40	108	66
Buffalo	14	13	2	30	85	85	Edmonton	14	15	2	30	101	98
Pittsburgh	13	13	3	29	103	103	Vancouver	14	13	1	29	87	82
Montreal	12	15	4	28	104	108	Los Angeles	12	14	3	27	79	90
Boston	10	12	5	25	77	80	San Jose	11	14	4	26	75	83
Ottawa	8	12	7	23	72	84	Anaheim	10	18	5	25	85	101
							Calgary	10	16	4	24	71	83

## Navarro to Chisox; Stanton to Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) - Jaime Navarro, who had consecutive winning seasons for the Chicago Cubs after struggling with Milwaukee, went across town Wednesday and agreed to a \$20 million, four-year contract with the Chicago White Sox.

The White Sox moved quickly to shore up their pitching, signing Navarro just two days after Alex Fernandez left for a \$35 million, five-year contract with the Florida Marlins.

"It's unfortunate to lose Alex, but those things happen," White Sox manager Terry Bevington said. "Over the last few years, Navarro has put up the same numbers Alex has. We feel we got a very, very good pitcher. This has nothing to do with jabbing the Cubs, we're just trying to strengthen our club."

Chicago also re-signed reliever Tony Castillo, agreeing to a \$2.35 million, two-year contract.

The New York Yankees got a pitcher, too, giving a \$5.45 million, three-year contract to left-handed reliever Mike Stanton. The Yankees still are interested in Roger Clemens and David Wells, and in keeping John Wetteland.

"We haven't made definitive offers," Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said.

Philadelphia added a pair of pitchers, giving Mark Portugal a \$5 million, two-year contract and Mark Leiter a \$4.3 million, two-year deal.

Navarro, a 28-year-old right-hander, was 15-12 with a 3.92 ERA last season following a 14-6 record and 3.28 ERA in 1995. He was disappointed with the Cubs' offer and seized the opportunity when Fernandez left the White Sox.

Castillo, 33, was acquired in August from Toronto and wound up 5-4 with a 3.60 ERA and two saves in 55 relief appearances. He gets \$1.05 million next season and \$1.1 million in 1998. The White Sox have a 1999 option at his 1998 base salary with a \$200,000 buyout.

Stanton, 29, gives the Yankees another arm in case Wetteland doesn't return and Mariano Rivera becomes the closer. He was 4-4 with a 3.66 ERA for Boston and Texas last season.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

Ronaldo, Shearer, Weah vie for FIFA award

Ronaldo, Alan Shearer and George Weah are the three players in contention for the FIFA Player of the Year award for 1996.

FIFA announced Wednesday that a record 120 national team coaches voted for their top three players and that these three were at the top of the voting.

Brazilian star Ronaldo plays in Spain for Barcelona, Newcastle's Alan Shearer, who owns the record for the world's biggest transfer fee at £15 million, top-scored at the European Championship playing for England, and Weah guided AC Milan to the Italian league title. (Reuters)

Spud Webb signs with Italian club

Spud Webb, a 5-foot-7 guard who won the NBA's Slam Dunk contest as a rookie in 1986, agreed to terms Wednesday with the Italian first division club Mash Verona. (AP)

# Ministries slash budgets

DAVID HARRIS

THE Finance Ministry announced yesterday that it will eliminate 200 jobs as part of the budget cuts the government approved on Monday.

Ministers spent yesterday finalizing their recommendations for deep cuts in their budgets, with some already handing them to Finance Minister Dan Meridor, ahead of today's deadline.

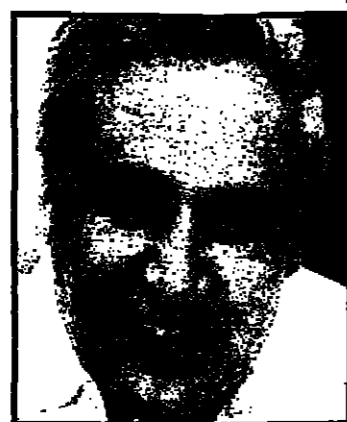
The government has agreed to reduce the 1997 state budget from NIS 190.8 billion to NIS 189.6 through NIS 600 million in revenue-increasing measures and a NIS 1.2b. cut in real terms.

While the cuts are being decided upon by individual ministers, the global sums were agreed upon during Monday's special cabinet meeting. The government agreed on additional cuts of 5 percent from the administrative ministries, 3% from the economic, 1.3% from the social, 0.65% from education, and 0.5% from the security ministry budgets.

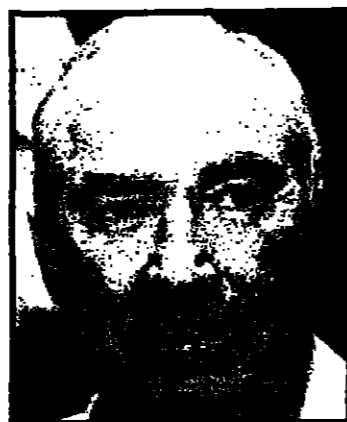
In addition to the 200 job cuts, the Treasury will also close one of its foreign missions, postpone building programs, cut back purchases, receive less external economic and legal advice, and permit fewer foreign trips than before.

The Foreign Ministry has decided to spread its NIS 45m. in cuts across the board. Among the measures taken will be the closing of embassies or other diplomatic missions abroad, laying off staff in Jerusalem and in the missions, a reduction in its construction program, reducing the size of its press office and a considerable reduction in the PR budget.

The Prime Minister's Office handed in its list of cuts totaling NIS 13m. to the Treasury yesterday. Spending cuts will be implemented in the office's activities.



Moshe Katsav - locked in negotiations.



Rafael Eitan - wants to rethink proposals.

In frantic negotiations yesterday, there were several disagreements between the Treasury and the Agriculture Ministry, which has to cut some NIS 38m. By Wednesday night, ministry officials had produced a comprehensive set of proposals, but yesterday, according to spokesman Naftali Yaniv, Minister Rafael Eitan decided he wanted to rethink the proposals. Now the final version will not be ready until Sunday.

The Transportation Ministry also failed to present its proposals yesterday. However, one source confirmed the likely victims of its NIS 20m. cut will be the new roads program and construction of

public transportation-only lanes on roads. The National Infrastructure Ministry has decided to incorporate both the original July cut and this week's additional one in the figures it published last night. Of the NIS 81.7m. total, energy will lose NIS 14m.; water and sewerage NIS 9m.; the Public Works Department, NIS 42.7m.; railroads, NIS 3m.; the Trans-Israel Highway, NIS 3m.; and the Israel Lands Administration, NIS 10m.

Faced with a NIS 63m. cut, Construction and Housing Ministry officials were meeting yesterday to make their final decision. "It's been difficult and there are arguments in more than one direction, but rest assured we will accomplish our task," ministry spokesman Moshe Fridman said.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who voted against the cuts, was negotiating with Meridor last night over where to reduce his budget by NIS 22m. This budget is particularly crucial given the drop in tourism following the terrorist activities and Operation Grapes of Wrath earlier this year.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky has been given an additional two days to consider where he can save NIS 102m. His ministry director-general Yehoshua Gleitman only returned yesterday from the first World Trade Organization conference held in Singapore, and he needed time to study the proposals with Sharansky before forwarding them to Netanyahu and Meridor.

While the Absorption Ministry will not make its final decision until Sunday, spokesman Yehuda Glick confirmed the NIS 22m. will not come from moneys set aside for direct help to immigrants, but rather from office savings in computerization, research, purchases and some reduction in staff.

The Interior Ministry's senior officers were locked in debate last night to decide where the NIS 126m. would come from.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry had been the only ministry to receive additional funding for 1997. Initially, this was to have been NIS 50m., but following a meeting yesterday between ministers Yishai and Meridor, it was agreed this be reduced to NIS 12m.

In order to reduce its budget by NIS 43m., the Justice Ministry will not appoint 10 additional judges as it had planned to district magistrates, labor and traffic courts. Furthermore, proposals to improve the quality and speed of advocacy will not be implemented in full.

Facing the smallest overall cut (NIS 3m.), Communications Ministry director-general Shlomo Waxe said it was comparatively easy to reach agreement with the Treasury on the nature of the reductions, which will be spread across most areas of ministry activity.

The remaining ministries were either still negotiating last night or their spokespeople were unavailable for comment.

# A-G orders Segev probe

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair has ordered the police to open a criminal investigation into former energy minister Gonen Segev, Ben-Yair's assistant, Noam Solberg, announced yesterday in a letter to the Movement for Quality Government in Israel.

The movement had written Ben-Yair in July to protest Segev's employment by the Eisenberg group, saying this represented a clear conflict of interest and violated Ben-Yair's own instructions regarding a cooling-off period for ministers and deputy ministers.

The complaint was based on a letter Segev wrote to the Jordanian government during his term as energy minister. In this letter, he informed the Jordanians that Shoul Eisenberg was interested in a joint venture with them, and that he [Segev] supported the idea. Eisenberg's proposal was for a power station run on natural gas to be set up in Jordan, which would sell electricity to Israel.

Immediately after the elections, Segev took a job with the Eisenberg group.

The movement noted that according to a legal opinion written by Ben-Yair, a cooling-off period is necessary for ministers and deputy ministers who wish to be employed by private companies with which their ministries worked, even though technically, the civil service regulations on this subject do not apply to ministers.

This opinion was written to pre-

vent situations such as Segev's, in which a minister helps a certain company with the goal of getting a job with it afterward, the movement said.

In the civil service, the standard cooling-off period is one to two years. By taking a job with Eisenberg immediately, the movement said, Segev flouted the attorney-gener-



Former energy minister Gonen Segev

al's instructions, and retroactively raised the suspicion that his assistance to Eisenberg had been motivated by an illegal conflict of interests.

After consulting with State Attorney Edna Arbel and other senior Justice Ministry officials, Ben-Yair concluded that the affair warranted a criminal investigation, Solberg wrote.

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Haifa 10-18  
Tiberias 10-18  
Ashdod 9-15  
Beer Sheva 7-14  
Tel Aviv 10-18  
Jerusalem 6-13  
Beersheba 8-18  
Dead Sea 14-21

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**Mother and baby stabbed by father-in-law**

RAINE MARCUS

A MOTHER and her baby suffered severe stab wounds yesterday, after being attacked by the woman's father-in-law. The two were hospitalized. Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital in critical condition.

The 26-year-old woman was with her 11-month-old baby, her father-in-law's Or Yehuda apartment, where the couple live. The incident occurred at about 3:45 p.m. when the father-in-law ran amok with a kitchen knife, stabbing the woman and his granddaughter.

The woman's husband was not at home at the time, but was called after the stabbing. Neighbors heard screams from the apartment and alerted a relative of the family, who called police and Magen David Adom. The assailant fled and was caught near the apartment by police. At the apartment, several knives were found which were used in the attack. The assailant, who is cooperating with police, was treated for slight wounds incurred in the fracas.

For the latest in science and computers, read Sunday's Science and Technology Page, by Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

- \* Computer mavens and neophytes attend Hadassah College of Technology's first Internet Day
- \* Itamar software offers a bag of birthday tricks
- \* How to unclench crystal globes ruined in the dishwasher
- \* Ben-Gurion University may help NASA fight fires with electricity
- \* Beware of urinary infection after baby's circumcision

**ESTATE OF THE LATE LILIAN (LIBY WIND) LANDE I.D. No. 3-0192351-2 NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 99(a) and 123(a) of the Succession Law 5725-1965. On 28th November 1996 there has been filed a Petition for an Order to Prove the Last Will and Testament in the Jerusalem District Court - Estates File 1354/96 together with Petition to Appoint Edward Steinlauf as Local Administrator of the Estate of the Late Lilian (Liby Wind) Lande who died on 6 November 1996. Any creditor having a claim against this estate is requested to notify the undersigned of same within three months of the date of the publication of this Notice to the following address: Edward H. Steinlauf & Co. Law Office, 9 Duvdevani Street, Jerusalem. Edward H. Steinlauf Advocate

# Southern District police chief to head J'lem force

RAINE MARCUS

CMDR. YAIR Yitzhaki, the Southern District Police chief, next March will replace Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit, who plans to take a three month study break in the US. The Internal Security Ministry announced yesterday.

Amit, backed by senior brass, decided to study abroad, apparently to take a break from turbulent events in the capital and to decide his future in the force.

Amit said he would quit the force, but Internal Security Minister Aviador Kahalani said yesterday that Amit still has a place with Israel's police.

An effective but sometimes controversial commander, Amit was recently at odds with Kahalani after disputes over police handling of haredi demonstrations on Bar-Ilan Street. At the beginning of his term, Kahalani introduced new regulations on demonstrations, banning the use of horses and

water cannon, except in emergencies. All of these things had been used by Amit.

Senior officers said at the time that differences of opinion between Amit and Kahalani could jeopardize the police chief's prospects for the post of police commissioner. Amit had been tipped for the post.

Since then Commissioner Assaf Hefetz's term was extended by a year, postponing the race for a successor. Hefetz in the past supported Amit's decisions on demonstrations, Yitzhaki was appointed by Kahalani and Hefetz.

Other candidates to be the next commissioner include Cmdr. Alec Ron, chief of the Judea and Samaria police, and the outgoing Tel Aviv chief, Cmdr. Gabi Last, who becomes Hefetz's deputy next week. Central District chief Shlomo Aharonishky will replace Last.

Interview with Last, Page 9



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